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# Knives

ILLUSTRATED

THE PREMIER CUTLERY MAGAZINE

MAY-JUNE 2015  
VOLUME 29, NO. 3  
www.knivesillustrated.com



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## SPECIAL SECTION

### 46 Best of SHOT

An insider's look at 2015's newest, most innovative knives and tools—including our top picks.

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# Knives

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THE PREMIER CUTLERY MAGAZINE

MAY/JUNE 2015  
Volume 29 • Number 3

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Handle: 5 3/8" Coated T6 Aluminum  
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Handle: 5" Coated Zinc  
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# EDITOR'S LETTER

**"AT EVERY KNIFE BOOTH [AT SHOT], WE FOUND SOMETHING EYE-CATCHING THAT SEIZED AND REVIVED OUR ATTENTION."**

## What Happens in Vegas



Knife by Jens Anso  
Photo by Jim Cooper

**THERE'S** a good reason why the *Knives Illustrated* staff looks forward to the Shooting, Hunting & Outdoor Trade Show in Las Vegas each year.

Amid the booths of guns and gun-related products that dominate most of the Sands Expo Center floor, the knife booths stand out—and not just because of the way the blades catch the light.

When you spend enough time walking the expansive floor, everything starts to look the same. But at every knife booth, we found something eye-catching that seized and revived our attention.

Sometimes this came in the form of a stunning, intricate handle, like Buck's, Böker's and Bear & Son's collaborations with Painted Pony Designs. Sometimes it was a particularly sleek folder, like Lucas Burnley's designs for CRKT. Sometimes it was an aggressive chopper, like Condor's Duku Parang machete, or a blade you can fit in your wallet, like Spyderco's Dog Tag.

These standouts among standouts are why SHOT is one of the highlights of our year (next to the Blade Show, of course)—we live for the first glimpse of these hottest new products, some of which are even still in the prototype phase, before they're introduced to the rest of the world. And we're no less excited about helping make that introduction to our readers.

We've saved the best for last in this issue: After you read through our other exciting features and columns, you'll find our SHOT Show special section, packed full of products that you're among the first to see. We hope you'll enjoy seeing our picks from the show in these pages nearly as much as we enjoyed seeing them in person! **KI**

—Bethany Miller Harbison



# CARVIN' JACK COLLECTION™

Made in the USA for over 25 years, Flexcut carving knives offer maximum performance. The Carvin' Jack Collection™ of woodcarving jack knives feature high-carbon steel blades that are hand-sharpened to a razor finish and really hold an edge. **All products are unconditionally guaranteed or your money back.**

## Detail Jack®

### Specifications

**Blade Steel:** 1095 HC  
**Blade Length/ Type:**  
 1 ½ inch Detail Knife  
**Closed Length:** 4 ¼ inches  
**Handle Material:** 6061  
 Anodized aluminum,  
 Brass rivet fasteners  
**Blade Lock:** Liner  
**Weight:** 2.2 oz  
**MSRP:** \$39.95



## Whittlin' Jack®

### Specifications

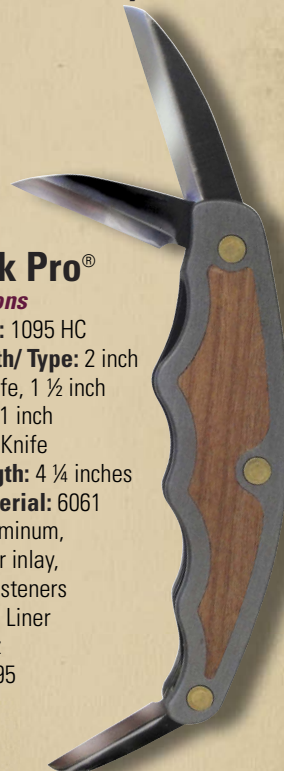
**Blade Steel:** 1095 HC  
**Blade Length/ Type:** 1 ½  
 inch Detail Knife & 2 inch  
 Roughing Knife  
**Closed Length:** 4 ¼ inches  
**Handle Material:** 6061  
 Anodized aluminum,  
 Walnut veneer inlay,  
 Brass rivet fasteners  
**Weight:** 3 oz  
**MSRP:** \$52.95



## Tri-Jack Pro®

### Specifications

**Blade Steel:** 1095 HC  
**Blade Length/ Type:** 2 inch  
 Roughing Knife, 1 ½ inch  
 Detail Knife, 1 inch  
 Mini-Cutting Knife  
**Closed Length:** 4 ¼ inches  
**Handle Material:** 6061  
 Anodized aluminum,  
 Cherry veneer inlay,  
 Brass rivet fasteners  
**Blade Lock:** Liner  
**Weight:** 4 oz  
**MSRP:** \$89.95



## Pocket Jack®

### Specifications

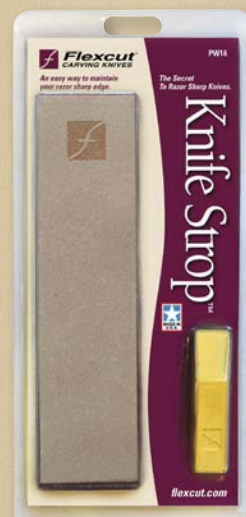
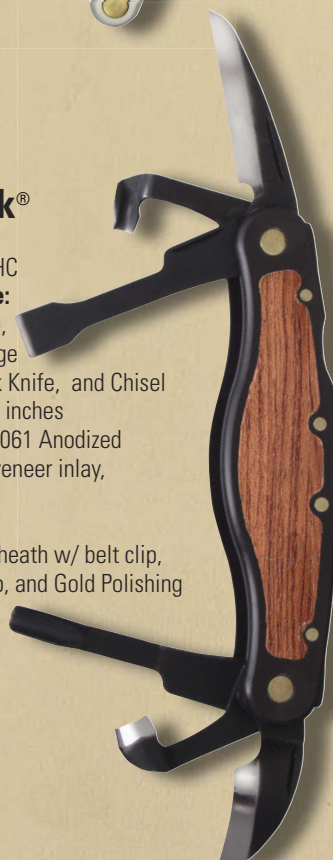
**Blade Steel:**  
 1095 HC  
**Blade Length/ Type:** 1 ½  
 inch Detail Knife, Straight  
 Gouge, Gouge Scorp,  
 and V- Scorp  
**Closed Length:** 4 ¼ inches  
**Handle Material:** 6061  
 Anodized aluminum,  
 Brass rivet fasteners  
**Blade Lock:** Clip  
**Weight:** 3 oz  
**MSRP:** \$86.95



## Carvin' Jack®

### Specifications

**Blade Steel:** 1095 HC  
**Blade Length/ Type:**  
 1 ½ inch Detail Knife,  
 Straight Gouge, Gouge  
 Scorp, V-Scorp, Hook Knife, and Chisel  
**Closed Length:** 4 ¼ inches  
**Handle Material:** 6061 Anodized  
 aluminum, Bubinga veneer inlay,  
 Brass rivet fasteners  
**Blade Lock:** Clip  
**Includes:** Leather Sheath w/ belt clip,  
 Sharpening SlipStrop, and Gold Polishing  
 Compound  
**Weight:** 3.5 oz  
**MSRP:** \$149.95



### Flexcut Knife Strop™

An 8" x 2" leather stropping surface,  
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# POINTS of INTEREST

THE LATEST GOINGS-ON  
IN THE KNIFE WORLD

## Name the Maker

SCORE A CHANCE TO WIN A SUBSCRIPTION BY  
CORRECTLY IDENTIFYING THE MAKER OF THIS BLADE

PHOTO BY JIM COOPER

We congratulate *Knives Illustrated* reader Mark Werner, who correctly identified William (Bill) Miller as the maker of the knife featured in our January issue.



### HOW TO WIN

If you correctly identify the maker of the featured knife, you will be entered into a drawing for a free one-year subscription to *Knives Illustrated*. If you're already a subscriber, you may choose to extend your current subscription or to receive a subscription to one of our sister magazines, *Gun World* or *Bow & Arrow Hunting*.

All entries must be received by 4 p.m. PST on May 22.

Winners are determined by placing entries in numerical order and generating a random number using [www.random.org](http://www.random.org).

Please submit guesses to [bmiller@engagedmediainc.com](mailto:bmiller@engagedmediainc.com) and specify your preferred prize option. Please also include the mailing address where you would like to receive your subscription should you win.

**HINT:** The maker of this intricate folder is a Missouri-based ABS Master Smith who has been making knives since the 1980s. In the early 1990s, he began making slip-joint folders in traditional patterns, as well as his own damascus steel.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

Dates and locations subject to change; please contact the show managers before arranging your travel.

### APRIL 11-12

EUGENE, OR

Oregon Knife Collectors Association Show

[okca@oregonknifeclub.org](mailto:okca@oregonknifeclub.org)

[www.OregonKnifeClub.org](http://www.OregonKnifeClub.org)

### APRIL 18

HONOLULU, HI

Plaza Cutlery Hawaii Knife Show

[www.PlazaCutlery.com](http://www.PlazaCutlery.com)

### APRIL 24-25

MIAMI, FL

Miami International Knife Expo

(417) 866-6688

[www.FiftyFiftyProductions.net](http://www.FiftyFiftyProductions.net)

### MAY 23

AUBURN, ME

Youth Bladesmithing Day at NESM

(419) 832-0400

[cindy@americanbladesmith.com](mailto:cindy@americanbladesmith.com)

### JUNE 5-7

ATLANTA, GA

Blade Show

(877) 756-9757

[www.BladeShow.com](http://www.BladeShow.com)

### JUNE 20

BREA, CA

California Knifemakers Association Show

(714) 907-7250

[kosterknives@verizon.net](mailto:kosterknives@verizon.net)

### JULY 10-12

AUBURN, ME

ABS New England Hammer-In

(888) 753-7502

[www.AmericanBladesmith.com](http://www.AmericanBladesmith.com)

### JULY 10-12

BELLEVILLE, IL

Belleville Knife Expo

(618) 658-8221

[bvilleknife@yahoo.com](mailto:bvilleknife@yahoo.com)

### SEPT. 18-20

KANSAS CITY, MO

International Custom Cutlery Exposition

(512) 446-3111

[harveydeanknives@gmail.com](mailto:harveydeanknives@gmail.com)

### NOV. 6-7

MOUNT VERNON, IL

Mount Vernon Knife Show

(618) 242-4514

[jckcr@yahoo.com](mailto:jckcr@yahoo.com)



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# Fearless Fighters

2015 is looking to be a big year for knife-related legislation, as organizations Knife Rights and the American Knife & Tool Institute have plenty on their respective plates.

AKTI found allies in U.S. Senators Mike Enzi, of Wyoming, and Ron Wyden, of Oregon, who introduced the Knife Owners' Protection Act. Should this act pass, it will offer federal protection for knife owners passing between states with varying laws. "The passage of KOPA will allow citizens to transport knives over state lines for lawful purposes, and put an end to the massive confusion that currently surrounds the issue," said an AKTI press release.

Meanwhile, Knife Rights plans to tackle the following bills in state legislative sessions:

- In Illinois: switchblades for concealed carry
- In Indiana, Mississippi, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Texas and Vermont: knife law preemption
- In Maine: switchblade and gravity knife-ban repeal

## SEARCH HERE

[www.AKTI.org](http://www.AKTI.org)  
[www.KnifeRights.org](http://www.KnifeRights.org)

## In Memoriam Chuck Buck (1936-2015)

The knife community has lost one of its pillars this year with the passing of Charles "Chuck" Buck, chairman of Buck Knives, grandson of the company's founder, and Blade Cutlery Hall of Fame inductee.

Beloved by his family and highly respected in the outdoor industry, Buck "personified the warm family tradition... and was influential in Buck Knives' considerable growth," said a press release from the company. His absence is greatly felt and his influence missed among all those who looked up to him.

The Buck family is asking those who wish to honor Chuck's memory to donate in his name to international relief organization Samaritan's Purse.

## SEARCH HERE

[www.BuckKnives.com](http://www.BuckKnives.com)  
[www.SamaritansPurse.org](http://www.SamaritansPurse.org)

## Custom and Collectible

Acquiring custom and collectible knives just got easier, thanks to developments from DPx Gear and Sheffield Collectable Knives.

Outdoor-focused DPx Gear is now releasing extremely limited monthly runs (no more than 30 pieces) of customized versions of their knives. Customization options include engraving, coating, and so on. Each knife will

include a certificate of authenticity and will ship free within the U.S.

Across the pond, England-based Sheffield Collectable Knives has debuted an e-commerce site where knife enthusiasts can purchase hand-crafted custom knives from makers including Joseph Rodgers, George Wostenholm, George Ibberson and others. 



Wostenholm & Son Damascus Bowie

## SEARCH HERE

[www.DPxGear.com](http://www.DPxGear.com)  
[www.SheffieldCollectableKnives.com](http://www.SheffieldCollectableKnives.com)





Druid  
220

I am steel. I am ice. I am man.

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# BEHIND the SCENES



RK Hawk





# Risk & Reward

## HOW KILIMANJARO GEAR TURNED PERSONAL INTERESTS INTO PROFESSIONAL SUCCESS

STORY BY BETHANY HARBISON

PHOTOS COURTESY OF KILIMANJARO GEAR

*This month, we spoke with Andy Somerville and Vince Caito of Kilimanjaro Gear on the challenges and successes of spearheading a new knife-focused venture from within a broader outdoor-focused business.*

### **Knives Illustrated: Can you give us some background on your brand's history and philosophy?**

**Andy Somerville:** Our parent company, Alltrade Tools, has a 36-year history of creating and producing innovative hand tools, automotive tools, garage equipment and such. Along the way we have invested a ton of cash into research and development, quality control and production techniques.

From a business perspective it made sense to look at new ways to leverage this investment. From a more personal perspective, a number of key team members here are avid outdoor or tactical enthusiasts, including our blade product manager, Vince Caito. But even a bunch of couch potatoes can spot opportunity in the growth in the tactical enthusiast market and the solid post-recession rebound in outdoor recreation.

**Vince Caito:** Funny thing though: It wasn't a bunch of market data that finally got us the green light. One of our owners went to the 2013 SHOT Show to "see for himself."

Twenty minutes after the show opened he called from the show floor. He said: "Let's do it. The aisles are so crowded I can barely move."

**“WE ENVISIONED  
BLADES THAT WOULD FEEL AND  
PERFORM LIKE AN EXTENSION  
OF THE USER, ON AN  
INSTINCTIVE LEVEL.”**

**—ANDY SOMERVILLE**

### **COMPANY INFO KILIMANJARO GEAR**

**YEAR FOUNDED:** 1979

**NUMBER OF EMPLOYEES:** 250

**WEBSITE:** [www.KilimanjaroGear.com](http://www.KilimanjaroGear.com)

**PHONE:** (800) 522-0847





From top to bottom, DW Folder, DW Companion and DW Stryker

“THESE  
BLADES OFFER  
FAIL-SAFE  
STRENGTH,  
PERFORMANCE  
AND VERSATILITY.”

—VINCE CAITO

**AS:** Of course, that's when the real work started for the team. Our philosophy about a new business venture is pretty similar to the decision tree that your readers might employ prior to an epic outdoor undertaking:

1. Do we have the requisite skills and knowledge? Yes.
2. Do we have the right resources at hand? Yes.
3. Do we have a plan with contingencies? Yes.
4. Is the potential outcome greater than the calculated risk? Yes.
5. Is death a possible outcome? Hopefully not!

**KI: When and why did you branch into making knives?**

**VC:** We had already been producing nice quality folding knives, utility knives, and multi-tools sold through hardware and auto parts stores. After the 2013 SHOT Show we completed the design and engineering process for our initial product line of blades, along with a selection of multi-tools, lights and bags. Our mission was to introduce the Phase One product line and the Kilimanjaro brand as a whole at the 2014 Outdoor Retailer Summer Market.





DW Folder

## WHAT'S IN A NAME?

The SERE line of knives is named for a particularly hardcore type of Navy SEAL training: Survival, Evasion, Resistance and Escape.

reception we got at the OR Show.

**VC:** Thing is, so did Andy and I, but our reasons for celebrating were a little stealthy. While we were designing, developing and producing some high-quality products for mainstream retail, we were also running another product development project. It's not flattery when I say we had *Knives Illustrated* readers in our sights for this side project—we literally had KI issues on the table as we discussed our plans in after-hours meetings.

## ABOUT THE INTERVIEWEES

**NAME:** Andy Somerville

**TITLE:** Director of Marketing

**EMPLOYED SINCE:** 1997

**NAME:** Vince Caito

**TITLE:** Senior Director of Product Development

**EMPLOYED SINCE:** 2004

**AS:** We completed the mission, and the brand and products were well received by the sporting goods retailers and distributors attending the show. It goes without saying our company owners were trolling for big fish—large wholesale and retail operators who can move product and get the big hits needed to cover our development costs. They appreciated the warm

**AS:** *Knives Illustrated* readers are part of a specialty market; let's call them "discerning blade collectors." Since it's a niche market, our plan was to have the Phase One product line we're selling through sporting goods retailers fund the intense R&D and prototyping required to create something truly special that would appeal to enthusiasts. It was all cloak and

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DW Companion (left) and DW Stryker

dagger for a while. We had secret negotiations with well-known blade designers, weapons trainers and users. Once everything was in place, we presented the product concepts and business plan, hoping to get yet another green light. Well, we got the nod, and the results are here on these pages!

**KI:** Tell us about the research and development process of producing your knives. Who was responsible for/involved in that process? Where did you start and how did you decide what kinds of knives to make?

**VC:** It was a little intimidating to start our design process with a blank sheet of

paper. You want to create something that looks both new and classic at the same time. Beyond appearance, it obviously has to bring real world strength and functionality to the party. Those things are relatively easy to design compared to finding the sweet spot of weighting, feel and balance. Borrowing a term from the extreme

sports world, we set out to design and produce blades that “flow.”

**AS:** That term “flow”—we borrowed that from extreme sports where athletes describe the calm and clarity they feel while performing death-defying stunts. We envisioned blades that would feel and

## KEY PLAYERS

COLLABORATORS ON KILIMANJARO KNIVES INCLUDE:

**JOEL LAMBERT**, highly trained Navy SEAL, combat instructor, and star of Discovery Channel's *Lone Target*

**DANIEL WINKLER**, owner of Winkler Knives, American Bladesmith Society Master Smith and military knife specialist

**RAFAEL KAYANAN**, master-level martial artist and fight choreographer



DW Wood Axe



perform like an extension of the user, on an instinctive level.

**VC:** We were looking deeper into the concept and discovered that soldiers experience “flow” in combat situations. The light bulb lit up real bright right then and there. Who better to help design “flow” than someone who’s experienced it in combat?

**AS:** Early in our search, a name surfaced: Joel Lambert, a SERE-trained (Survival, Evasion, Resistance and Escape) SEAL who at the time was filming his first season of *Lone Target* on Discovery Channel. Joel showed interest in the project and suggested we bring in master bladesmith Daniel Winkler, as well as master edged weapons instructor and designer Rafael Kayanan. The term “dream team” is over-used, but definitely applied with this tri-fecta. Joel provides the knowledge of the ultimate user in combat, evasion and survival situations, and has collaborated with Daniel and Rafael on highly successful, in-demand blade designs.

**KI: What was your main priority for the finished products?**

**VC:** Quality is absolutely the top priority of this new SERE line. Working with men of this caliber and reputation, whose names are literally on the product, means “good enough” isn’t good enough. These blades offer fail-safe strength, performance and versatility.

**KI: What kind of testing have you put your knives through, and how did they perform? Did anything go wrong initially that required you to make adjustments to the designs?**

**AS:** Our testing mantra is overkill—not only for these SERE models, but for everything we do. There’s extensive testing of materials, construction, consistency, all the lab stuff. That’s good and necessary, but we put our prototypes in the hands of real users and enthusiasts to field test design and construction before we ever introduce them to the market.

**KI: What are Kilimanjaro’s goals within the next year and in the long term?**

**AS:** It’s no secret that for a brand that’s just

**“SEAL JOEL LAMBERT PROVIDES THE KNOWLEDGE OF THE ULTIMATE USER IN COMBAT, EVASION AND SURVIVAL SITUATIONS, AND HAS COLLABORATED WITH DANIEL WINKLER AND RAFAEL KAYANAN ON HIGHLY SUCCESSFUL, IN-DEMAND BLADE DESIGNS.”**  
**—ANDY SOMERVILLE**

beginning to make a name for itself the immediate and long term goal is to get recognition and placement. But I think we’ll feel the

most pride seeing our products in the hands of serious collectors and passionate enthusiasts and earning their positive feedback. **KI**

**AMERICAN BUFFALO KNIFE & TOOL**  
**ABKT**

The advertisement features a collection of knives and a brush set. On the left, there is a large combat-style knife with a black handle and a silver blade. In the center, a large combat-style knife with a wooden handle and a silver blade is displayed. To the right, a folding pocket knife with a black handle and silver blades is shown. Below the knives, a black case containing several brushes with white bristles is visible. The background is a textured, olive-green surface.

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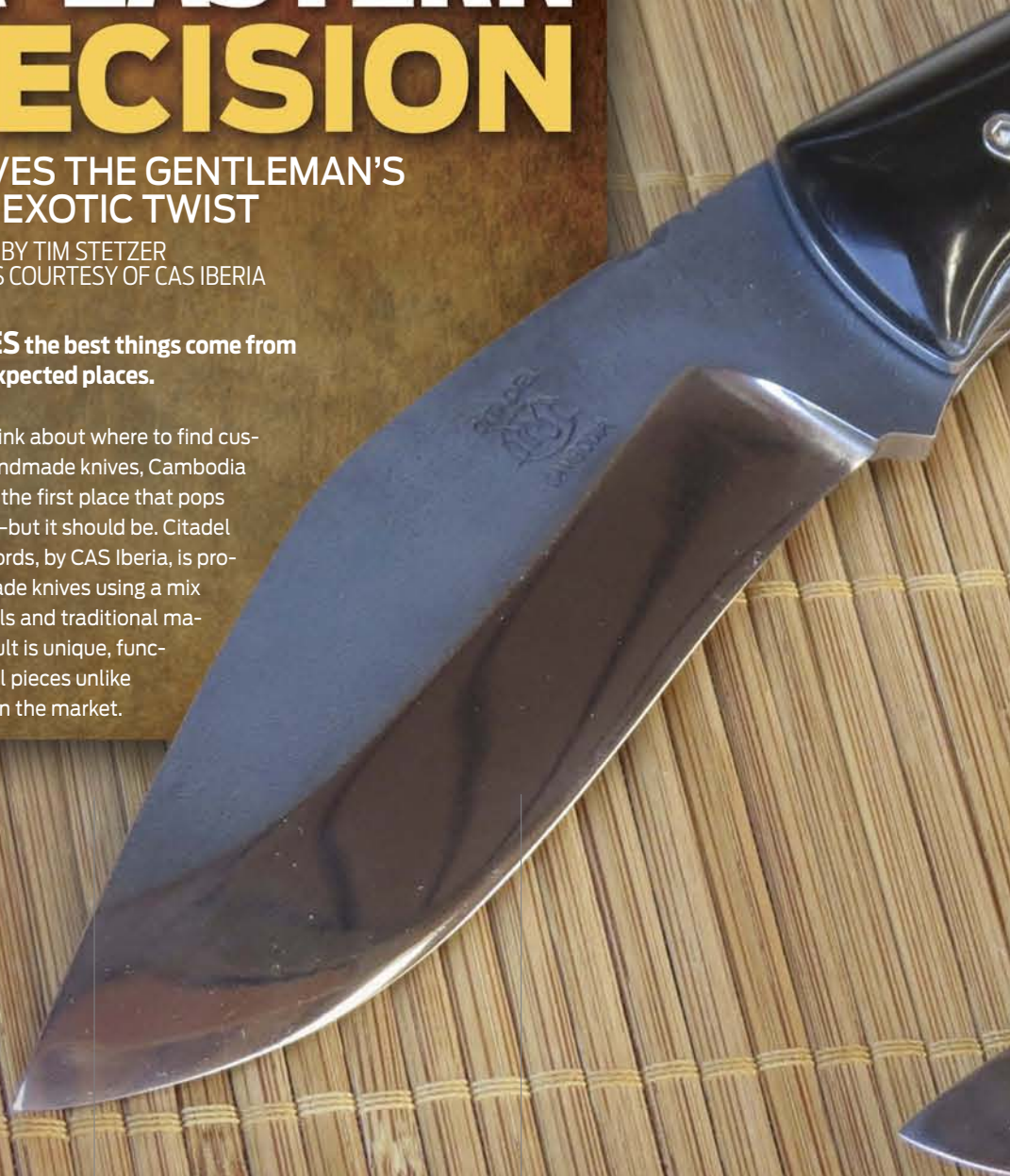
# FAR EASTERN PRECISION

## CITADEL GIVES THE GENTLEMAN'S FOLDER AN EXOTIC TWIST

STORY AND PHOTOS BY TIM STETZER  
ADDITIONAL PHOTOS COURTESY OF CAS IBERIA

**SOMETIMES** the best things come from  
the most unexpected places.

When you think about where to find custom-quality handmade knives, Cambodia is probably not the first place that pops into your head—but it should be. Citadel Knives and Swords, by CAS Iberia, is producing handmade knives using a mix of modern steels and traditional materials. The result is unique, functional, beautiful pieces unlike anything else on the market.







**“THE CITADEL KNIVES ARE  
UNIQUE, FUNCTIONAL,  
BEAUTIFUL PIECES UNLIKE  
ANYTHING ELSE ON THE  
MARKET.”**



## From Cambodia with Love

While Citadel knives have been available in the U.S. for a while now, until recently they were often hard to find. But all that changed when the Citadel line was picked up by CAS Iberia. You can now find an impressive array of folders, fixed blades and swords either directly through the CAS Iberia website or through one of their distributors.

I spoke with the folks from CAS Iberia at Blade last year and at this year's SHOT show and got some scoop on Citadel and how things are made. The short version: While many Asian-made blades come from a large factory, that couldn't be further from the truth about Citadel knives.

Like many custom and semi-custom shops in the U.S., Citadel has a small crew of employees that build their knives by hand. They use a mix of imported steels like German Bohler N690Co stainless and DNH7, which is pretty similar to 1075 carbon steel but responds well to differential heat treating. Handle materials are largely traditional, such as Micarta, rosewood, palisander wood, buffalo horn and bone, but also include more unique materials such as rayskin.

The folks at CAS Iberia are excited about the Citadel line, so I figured it was time to pick up a couple pieces and see what all the fuss was about. After some discussion we settled on the Saigon, a small everyday-carry, and the Kukri Lock, a big heavy-duty folder.

## A Tale of Rays and Buffalo

While I tend to review a lot of modern blades and have worked with more than my share of tactical designs I have to admit I have an affinity for old-school, ethnic patterns. There's something in these design that sings to my soul. Maybe it's the connection to the cultures they spring from, or maybe it's just the novelty compared to the styles and designs that I more commonly see. Either way I was eager to work with these Citadel folders.

When I opened the box from CAS Iberia the first thing I noted was that both knives came in sturdy, padded, zippered nylon carry cases—a nice touch right out of the gate and one I usually only see with custom knives. Unzipping the cases revealed the pocket-sized Saigon with its distinc-



Citadel folders come with padded nylon pouches just like many custom knives.



The Saigon is a compact, classy EDC folder that blends modern European steel with classic Far East handle materials.

---

**"THE SAIGON IS CLASSY AND DISTINCTIVE, BUT AT THE SAME TIME SMALL ENOUGH TO BE SUBTLE IN MIXED COMPANY."**

---

tive rayskin scales and the massive Kukri Lock with its buffalo horn scales.

I gave both knives a thorough look-over and a few things soon became apparent. First, Citadel knows what it's doing when it comes to building knives. The fit and

finish on these folders is impeccable. The blades are well centered when folded and lock up solidly with no play present in any direction when opened. Both knives use liner locks with sturdy liners that click positively in place, yet are still easy



enough to disengage when you're ready to close your knife. They both feature cutouts in the scales to allow access to the lock as well.

The blades on these knives are the Bohler N690Co stainless, and they feature a saber grind with polished edges and matte finished flats. The edges appear to be convex and both would pop hair with ease out of the box. The spine of the knives is adorned with hand-engraved scrollwork that lines up with matching scrollwork on the blade spines when the knives are opened. It's a subtle, but classy addition to already impressive blades.

At only 3.5 inches long when closed, the Saigon is a compact folder. It carries a drop-point blade just over 2 inches in length and weighs in at a petite 3.5 ounces. An extended tang acts as a flipper of sorts, and the Saigon can be opened with one hand with a little practice. It definitely classifies as a gentleman's knife in my book and would be right at home in any formal setting.

The rayskin handles are unique and

## SAIGON

**OVERALL:** 6 inches  
**BLADE LENGTH:** 2.1 inches  
**HANDLE LENGTH:** 3.5 inches  
**WEIGHT:** 3.5 ounces  
**BLADE STEEL:** N690Co  
**HANDLE MATERIAL:** Rayskin  
**MSRP:** \$215

## KUKRI LOCK

**OVERALL:** 9.5 inches  
**BLADE LENGTH:** 3.9 inches  
**HANDLE LENGTH:** 5.4 inches  
**WEIGHT:** 10 ounces  
**BLADE STEEL:** N690Co  
**HANDLE MATERIAL:** Horn  
**MSRP:** \$209



A sturdy liner lock keeps the Saigon's blade open.

attractive. They consist of rayskin glued to a wooden scale and then polished and coated with a clear lacquer-type finish. The polishing smooths out the rough rayskin texture and leaves behind a black and white spotted pattern that my 10-year-old son said reminded him of a leopard skin. It's visually stunning and quite the departure from most other handles.

Citadel also makes the Saigon in a rosewood handle if the rayskin is a bit too exotic for you, but I have to say that the ray is much of what makes this knife stand out. In traditional form, no pocket clip is present or available for this little EDC blade. It'll ride nicely in the pocket of dress slacks or cargo pants with equal aplomb.

The Kukri Lock is a big working blade that channels the impressive Nepalese blades it's designed after. At 9.5 inches open, and with a downswept, recurve blade that looks bigger than its 3.9 inches, the Kukri Lock is a sizeable piece. It carries a 4-millimeter thick blade that locks on its generous 5.5-inch long handle and clocks in at a hefty 10 ounces.

There is no provision for one-hand opening and, in fact, no opening mechanism of any sort, not even a nail nick. The blade is easily opened, though, by simply grasping the tall blade on its matte-textured flats with the index finger and thumb of your support hand and opening the blade until it snicks into the locked position.

## CONTACT CAS IBERIA

(800) 635-9366  
[www.CASiberia.com](http://www.CASiberia.com)



The spine of the Saigon is hand engraved with decorative scrollwork.



**“THE KUKRI’S BIG HANDLE MAKES IT VERY COMFORTABLE TO USE AND THE RECURVE BLADE IS CAPABLE OF MAKING POWERFUL CUTS...”**



The Saigon uses handle scales of polished rayskin that make for an extremely unique and striking appearance.

The handle shape with its flared butt and buffalo horn scales is all kukri; it's even affixed with a lanyard hole and comes with a braided leather lanyard.

Rosewood is also an option for the Kukri Lock if that's what you'd prefer. Again, in traditional fashion there's no pocket clip on this piece and it probably is best suited being tucked into the back pocket of your jeans or Carhartts.

The size, weight, and opening characteristics of the Kukri Lock reminded me in a lot of ways of the classic Buck 110. The Bucks were a solid folder in this class and often rode in the back pocket of many an outdoorsman, cop and tradesman back in the day. Think of the Kukri Lock in the same sort of light, but with custom craftsmanship and materials and a far-Eastern feel.

### **Putting the Citadels to Work**

I put both knives into my EDC rotation to see just what they could do off and on for a period of approximately two months. On a day-to-day basis I would drop the Saigon in my pocket, as it's definitely the easier of the two pieces to carry. Its smooth, rounded handles rode well in the pocket and proved very comfortable to use for routine chores. I didn't do anything crazy with the Saigon, but it did open its share of boxes and packages, cut some string, tape and other odds and ends—basically all of the things you normally do with your pocketknife.

I found that the 2.1-inch blade was plenty big enough for all of those chores, yet small enough that it didn't panic anyone when I pulled it out in public to use it. The rayskin handle garnered quite a few compliments, even from folks who are not normally “knife people” and wouldn't generally pay much attention to what I was carrying. The Saigon is classy and distinc-

## **KUKRI VS. KUKRI LOCK**



The Citadel Kukri Lock folder and an authentic, World War II-era kukri the author inherited from his father.

I have in my collection an interesting kukri that dates back to the 1940s. It's a very nice buffalo-horned model that's a quite a bit nicer than the typical British military issue ones from that era.

This knife came to me via my father, who in turn had acquired it from a woman in his art league. Her husband was a pilot in the Army Air Corps and was responsible for flying the “Hump” over the Himalayas from India to China to resupply Chiang Kai-shek's forces in their fight against the Japanese during World War II. He, like many other pilots of the era, picked up a locally made kukri in India and carried it on his missions in case he was shot down or crashed in such rugged terrain. Thankfully he never had to put it to any use and it sat in a footlocker until his passing and eventually ended up in my hands.

When I received the Citadel Kukri Lock folder, I was immediately reminded of this piece both because of the obvious kukri styling of the folder but also due to its beautiful buffalo horn handle scales and the quality of build. While I certainly am not doing anything remotely as dangerous as flying the Hump on a day-to-day basis, I do find the presence of the Kukri Lock in my daily kit nearly as comforting as those pilots did with their full-sized kukris back in the day!



The Kukri Lock has a large 5.4-inch long handle complete with braided leather lanyard.



## FAST FACTS

### SAIGON

- Distinctive rayskin handle
- Compact but effect blade size
- Best for everyday pocket carry

### KUKRI LOCK

- Large, comfortable handle
- Powerful recurve blade
- Best for light camping/outdoors chores

tive, but at the same time small enough to be subtle in mixed company. It's a great choice for someone who wants a solid EEC blade without all the tactical bling.

The Kukri Lock mostly got carried when I was dressed casually in jeans or cargo pants. It's pretty heavy to just drop in your front pocket but it worked well tucked in my back pocket alongside my wallet. I've given some thought to having an open-top leather belt pouch made for the Kukri and think that might be just the ticket for regular carry.



The Kukri Lock's handle is very similar to the author's buffalo horn handled kukri from World War II.


Regardless of how you carry it, the Kukri is a real performer when you start using it. The big handle makes it very comfortable to use and the recurve blade is capable of making powerful cuts. I can see this knife being a great outdoors blade, especially in areas where a fix bladed knife might be prohibited. The lock-up is extremely positive and while I didn't try any chopping with it, I did run it through some basic camp and bushcraft chores such as cutting poles for a cooking tripod, sharpening stakes and prepping tinder for the fire.



The Kukri Lock uses a recurve blade similar in style to a full-sized kukri.

Pairing this knife up with a sturdy fixed blade or a small axe would make for a formidable camp combo.

### Custom Quality the Cambodian Way

Both the Saigon and the Kukri Lock tested impressively, and they're in excellent company among Citadel's dozens of other options. If you're looking for a unique blade that blends classic features and handle materials with top-notch construction and modern blade steel then look no further than CAS Iberia. 



**"THE EDGE GUARD SHEATH AND COMPANION  
5.5-INCH TACTICAL KNIFE ARE A MATCH MADE IN  
HEAVEN FOR ENVIRONMENTS CLOSER TO HELL."**

## **READY FOR THE SANDBOX**

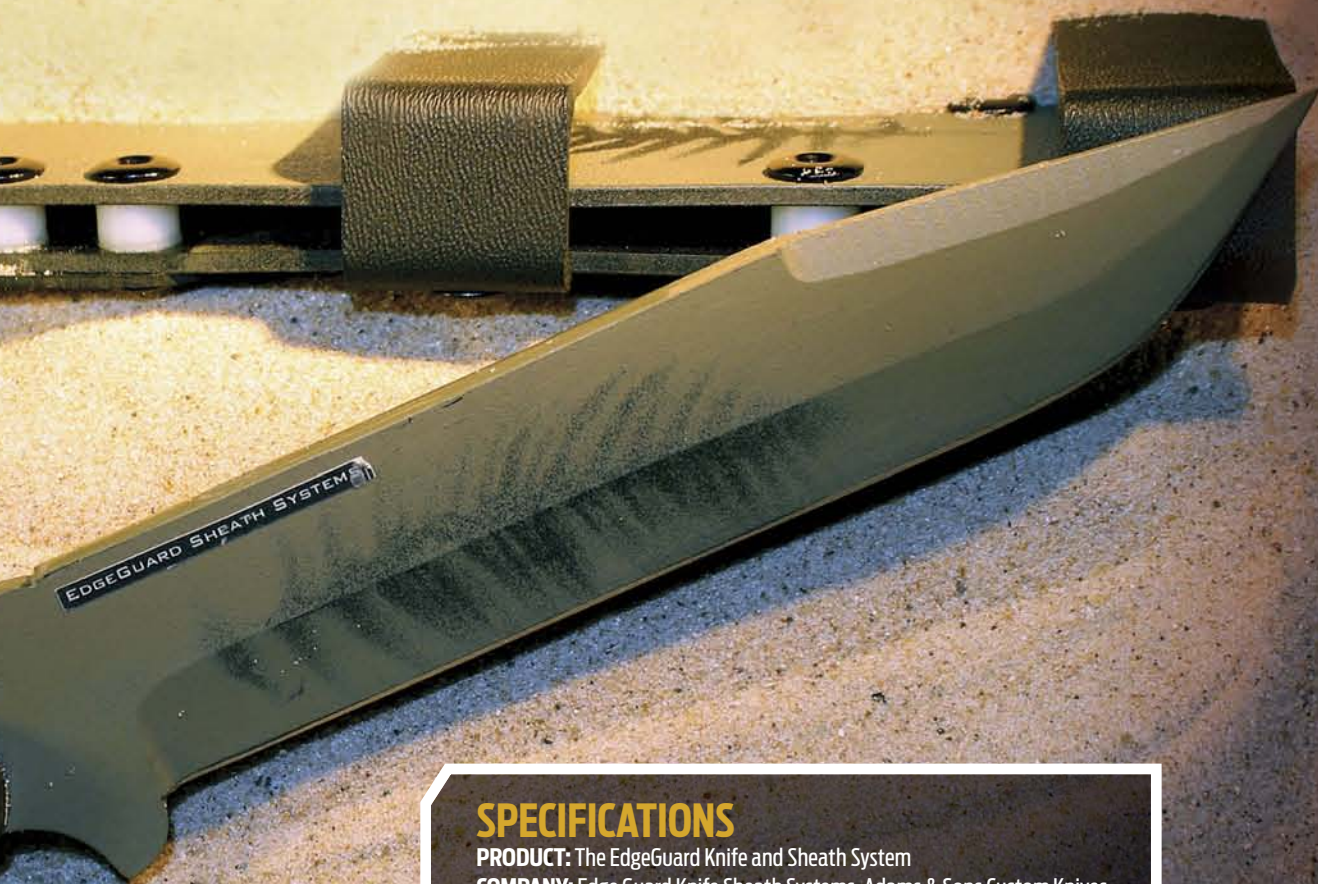
**ADAMS' EDGE GUARD SHEATH SYSTEM KEEPS  
SOLDIERS' BLADES SECURE AND SHARP**

STORY BY STEVEN PAUL BARLOW  
PHOTOS BY STEVEN PAUL BARLOW AND STEPHANIE BARLOW

**For 14 years, Phil Adams has been  
focused on custom knives.**

Day in and day out, the owner of Adams and Sons Custom Knives has centered his work day around fixed-blade hunting knives... until he heard from two U.S. Army Rangers with several deployments to Iraq of a specific problem soldiers were having with their knives. That's when the problem hit home.





## SPECIFICATIONS

**PRODUCT:** The EdgeGuard Knife and Sheath System

**COMPANY:** Edge Guard Knife Sheath Systems, Adams & Sons Custom Knives

**OVERALL LENGTH:** 10.25 inches

**BLADE LENGTH:** 5.5 inches

**BLADE WIDTH:** 1.125 inches

**BLADE THICKNESS:** 3/16 inch

**STEEL:** 1095 Carbon, matte black or coyote epoxy-coated

**HANDLE SCALES:** Black or camo DymondWood



## THE PROBLEM

It seems that soldiers struggled to keep their knives sharp in the desert environment because sand was continually getting into the sheaths. When the knives were repeatedly drawn and replaced in their sheaths, the sand acted as an abrasive and dulled the edges. When a soldier is in the field, the durability of his knife should be the least of his worries.

"At that time my son was serving in Afghanistan," said Adams, whose company is based in central New York. "I was thinking if I could come up with something, it would benefit him, too. So at that point I started working on the concept."

## THE SOLUTION

For Adams, who was used to building those beautiful hunting knives, this new project created a different kind of challenge. Ultimately, he developed his EdgeGuard Knife Sheath System (patent pending).

"The sheath still protects the person who wears it, but it doesn't allow anything to stay in it," he said. "The problem with a (conventional) sheath is that it's a pocket. Anything that goes in doesn't come out."

Adams' sheath uses two parallel pieces of .093-inch Kydex held apart by nylon spacers so that any sand, grit or other debris falls right out. The knife itself barely contacts the sheath and is held securely by a spring-loaded latch system that eliminates the need for any straps and snaps. One-handed operation to remove or secure the knife is smooth and easy.

Although originally designed with desert environments in mind, the EdgeGuard system would also excel in wet regions because moisture is not trapped inside the sheath.

**"ADAMS' SHEATH USES TWO PARALLEL PIECES OF .093-INCH KYDEX HELD APART BY NYLON SPACERS SO THAT ANY SAND, GRIT OR OTHER DEBRIS FALLS RIGHT OUT."**



The EdgeGuard sheath in the vertical position uses a flexible belt attachment, which makes this carry method easier when seated in a vehicle.





The sheath system includes removable brackets that allow the knife to be carried in a horizontal position on the belt either at the side as shown or along the back.

The sheath system is set up for either traditional vertical carry or horizontally across the back as some soldiers prefer.

Optional accessories allow for mounting with leg straps or attaching to MOLLE gear. All of the attachments can be configured for

either right- or left-hand carry using a simple flathead screwdriver.

### THE EDGEGUARD TACTICAL KNIFE

Adams also designed a knife to go into this sheath. It's not a behemoth Bowie with a 10-inch blade that a soldier is apt to leave behind. Instead, it's a more sensible and more usable 5.5-inch length. Its 1095 carbon blade is epoxy-coated with Brownell's Aluma-Hyde II in either black or coyote. It has a chisel-tough tip that isn't likely to snap off in rough use.

### THE BOTTOM LINE

**PRICE:** \$225 (MOLLE adaptor and leg strap adaptor each \$25 extra)



The optional leg strap attachment keeps the knife close to the leg and comfortable for all-day carry.



The optional MOLLE gear attachment allows the EdgeGuard sheath to be mounted on packs and other gear.





The complete EdgeGuard Knife Sheath System is shown with tactical knife, flow-through sheath, horizontal attachment brackets, and the optional MOLLE and leg strap attachment fixtures.



The spring-loaded latch on the EdgeGuard sheath locks into a notch on the top of the blade and provides good security without the need for straps. It also allows for easy, one-handed access.



Nylon spacers are placed between the Kydex halves of the EdgeGuard sheath to allow sand and other abrasives a way out so that nothing rubs against the knife blade that could dull it.



Attachments to the EdgeGuard Sheath System fasten with common flathead screws so that no specialized tools need to be carried to adapt the sheath to different modes of carry.

"I call it a semi-clip," Adams said. "I wanted a blade that wasn't too long, that was effective in stabbing and going through material with the strength to penetrate. There's enough meat there that it's not going to snap."

Weight was a consideration too, he said. The handle is still 3/16-inch thick,

but he drilled some holes in it to take some of the weight off of the back.

"It still has plenty of spine to it," he said. "If you wear it on your leg, you hardly know that it's there."

The handle is DymondWood, which is lightweight and attractive, and he left the





The EdgeGuard Knife Sheath System provides a good knife/sheath combination that would work well in many tactical situations.

## NEW SKIN FOR THE OLD WARRIOR

You may be able to get a new EdgeGuard sheath for your old favorite knife.

After introducing the EdgeGuard knife and sheath system, Adams was approached by several old-timers who wanted to know if he could make sheaths for their old KA-BAR military knives. So Adams went to work and developed an EdgeGuard sheath for the full-size (7-inch blade) KA-BAR military utility knife.

It differs from Adams' original design in that the spring-loaded latch clips onto the upper finger guard of the KA-BAR, rather than into a notch in the top of the blade. No modification of your sentimental favorite is necessary. Adams said he might be able to adapt his sheath system to other knives as well if the customer is willing to submit his knife to ensure an exact fit.

"I have to take into account the shape of the blade and the type of guard that's on it," he said.





## CONTACT

[www.EdgeGuardSheaths.webs.com](http://www.EdgeGuardSheaths.webs.com)  
[www.AdamsKnives.webs.com](http://www.AdamsKnives.webs.com)



The EdgeGuard knife and sheath proved to be a rugged and versatile.

handle scales unpolished and rough so it would provide a better grip. He's also considering using a canvas Micarta.

### PUTTING IT TO THE TEST

Naturally, I couldn't wait to get this good-looking setup a little dirty. First, I buried the knife in sand to see if this sheath lived up to the claims. I picked up the knife and most of the sand slid out of the sheath. For good measure, I gave it a couple of shakes and repeatedly drew the knife from the sheath and reinserted it. I could hear a few stubborn grains of sand grating at the flats of the blade and imagined what that sand would do to the edge of a knife in a conventional sheath.

In the EdgeGuard, the edge did not seem to be contacting the sheath, so there was no filing away of edge by the abrasive sand. The simple solution of using nylon spacers between the halves of the sheath was a success.

Next, I went to work trying the knife in all of its carrying positions... vertical, horizontal, inverted, strapped to my leg, attached to my pack, on the right or on the left. The knife rode comfortably, securely and close to the body. The sheath system proved to be as versatile as advertised.

Of course, the sheath wouldn't be of much use if the knife in it wasn't up to the tasks demanded of such a tool. I quickly learned there was no need for concern. This is a good knife.



In response to veterans concerned about abrasive sand in conventional sheaths that dulled their knife blades, Phil Adams designed this 5.5-inch tactical knife to go with his innovative EdgeGuard Sheath System.



Phil Adams began his knife-making career by offering a number of well-crafted drop-point hunting designs before he turned his attention to more tactical concerns. He continues to make beautiful knives for outdoorsmen.

At first glance, I thought the grip might be a bit short, even for my average-sized hands. But the slightly rough Dymond-Wood was comfortable in both forward and reverse grips and when I inched my hand forward for some detail work. In



The grip angle and blade configuration of the EdgeGuard knife worked well for long cutting strokes. The strong, semi-clip point also proved to be an excellent penetrator.

long cutting strokes or abrupt penetrating motions, the knife stayed secure in my hand. It was sufficiently sharp to smoothly perform cuts through wood, cardboard, plastic and raw meat with little effort.

Finally, all of the attachments are secured with four flathead screws, so there's no need to carry specialized tools.

### INNOVATION THROUGH FREEDOM

One of the great things about freedom in this country is that it allows innovation to come from individuals and small companies. I think Phil Adams has a good idea here, and he has executed that idea very well. The EdgeGuard sheath and companion 5.5-inch tactical knife are a match made in heaven for environments closer to hell. **(K)**



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# THE ULTIMATE WORKHORSE

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THE AFFORDABLE BARONYX MACHETE IS  
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STORY AND PHOTOS BY TIM STETZER

### **“What if you could only have one?”**

That is a question outdoorsmen often ask. Make the topic machetes, ask me and it's an easy answer. My pick would be the Baronyx Machete from the Baronyx Knife Company.

Here's why.

#### **Meet the Baronyx**

The Baronyx Machete is 23.25 inches long and carries a 4-inch-wide by 16-inch-long blade made of 1075 high-carbon steel. The blade is 2.2mm thick and has a matte finish, and the 7-inch long high-impact polypropylene handle is symmetrical to allow for a solid grip when using the blade in either direction. The Baronyx, which weighs 1 pound 10 ounces, comes with a sturdy black leather sheath.

Those specs may come across as fairly standard machete fare, other than maybe the blade width, but the shape of the blade is anything but standard. The English billhook, particularly the Hertford model, served as Benjamin Bouchard's influence for this tool, and the machete is nothing like a classic Latin-style machete.



The company's website perfectly describes the blade and the knife's features. It states: "The primary edge is used for the bulk of your general chopping tasks and features a continuous curve to the edge for rocking or drawing cuts. The back hook gives a sickle-like blade for cutting grasses, brambles, woody stemmed plants and any other target that would be prone toward slipping off the edge of a conventional blade. The bifurcated tip allows for a usable point for detail work, a striking zone for batoning or a handhold for draw/push-knifing, and acts like an extension of the arm for pushing brush out of the way. The symmetrical handle allows either edge to be used in the forward-facing position, depending on the needs of the situation, and is long enough to be used two-handed if desired."

It didn't take much to get me excited about the machete. I've long been a fan of billhook-styled tools dating back to my days in the Boy Scouts. I used to spend a lot of hours behind a brushhook while helping with an Eagle Scout project in which we cleared out and rehabilitated an old overgrown park. I even have an old brushhook I got from my wife's grandfather in my garage and I also keep an eye out for them from time to time, but they aren't always easy to find.

That early brushhook use got me interested in the smaller billhook, and I soon found that those are even harder to find in the States. Until Bouchard started carrying them recently, your options were pretty limited to occasional finds on eBay or ordering direct from Europe.

## **SPECIFICATIONS BARONYX MACHETE**

**OVERALL LENGTH:** 23.25 inches

**BLADE LENGTH:** 16 inches

**STEEL:** 1075HC

**THICKNESS:** 2.2 millimeters

**WEIGHT:** 1.6 pounds

**COUNTRY OF ORIGIN:** El Salvador

**MSRP:** \$69.98



The Baronix Machete cut through even dried, hard wood with ease. The big cleaver-like blade threw large chips and quickly worked its way through this 3-inch branch.



The handle on the machete is large enough for even large or gloved hands. For a more powerful cutting stroke, you can get two hands on it if need be.

The wide blade of the Baronix Machete adds mass and, coupled with the long handle, makes for a tool capable of performing powerful, sheering cuts.





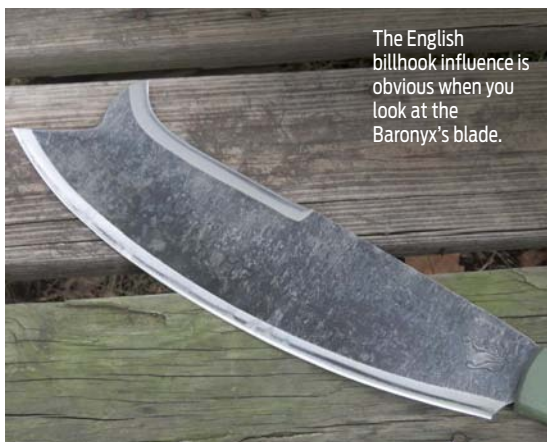
The Baronyx Machete got pressed into service in the camp kitchen and made short work of husking corn.

## DID YOU KNOW?

The term **"Baronyx"** refers to a carnivorous crocodile-like dinosaur first discovered in the clay pits of England. The name roughly translates to "heavy claw" and was named that due to the large claw on each of the dinosaur's "hands."



The 7-inch handle of the Baronyx is symmetrical and allows you to easily switch from using the primary cutting edge to the hook on the back of the blade.



The English billhook influence is obvious when you look at the Baronyx's blade.

Still, I would always keep an eye out for this tool so when I saw the Baronyx I was immediately drawn to it. To me it's a great mix of the classic billhook blended with the larger blade of a heavy machete that suggests it really should live up to Bouchard's idea for a do-all North American temperate zone tool. The only way to really find out though was to use it, so that's what I did.

### Field Work with the Baronyx

I worked with the Baronyx over the summer. Not only did I use it around the house and in the field, I took it on a couple camping trips. Before we

## IN THEIR OWN WORDS

*Baronyx owner Benjamin Bouchard gave us some background on billhooks and the Baronyx Machete:*

"Billhooks come in an astounding variety of sizes and shapes, with some having only one edge, others with two, and some with various unedged hooks, spikes, or prongs on them. Those that are double-edged usually have the hook side as the primary blade with the "hatchet" blade secondary, but some forms are just the reverse.

"The Baronyx Machete was designed with primary inspiration from the British Hertford pattern billhook, which is one such pattern. The "hatchet" blade on most billhooks is used for cutting against flat surfaces or in other circumstances where the hook would obstruct the cut.

"With the Hertford pattern billhook the hook on the back of the blade is unedged, but it provided me with the inspiration for a machete that represented an intersection of the abilities of a typical machete, a traditional billhook, and heavy cleaver-like chopping knives, all while remaining within a size and weight range that would still be reasonable to carry and use for prolonged periods."





delve into performance, however, let's talk about handling characteristics.

The Baronix is a big blade.

It's not overly long as far as machetes go, but it's wide and has a cleaver-like appearance. It's sturdy at 2.2 millimeters thick but not overly heavy; it actually balances quite nicely and is comfortable to use for extended periods of time.

I used the machete when clearing out brush around the edges of my backyard, and it worked exceptionally well. Weeds, thorns and vines encroach the fringes of my yard every summer, and I cut them back so that I can mow the lawn without getting impaled by thorns. The keen factory edge on the Baronix zipped through the lighter vegetation with ease, and the hook on the reverse side worked especially well for catching the thornier plants that I didn't want to get too close to.

The hook was also handy for dragging those pieces out of the brush where I could more easily grab them with gloved hands and carry them off. I repeated this process a number of times over the summer, and the Baronix was my tool of choice each time, despite having a plethora of machetes from which to choose.

Smaller green saplings that needed to be cleared on my buddy's property also didn't stand a chance. One-inch branches

and saplings fell in one swing; larger ones never took more than three or four good swings. The bill-style hook on the reverse of the blade worked great for limbing the saplings and would be a great help in doing similar work for building a survival shelter or bushcraft-style work.

I also used it on my camping trips. I put the Baronix to heavier work hacking up firewood, and I chewed through some

At just over 23 inches in length, the Baronix Machete gives you enough blade to do serious work but is still compact enough to carry strapped to a pack or tucked on your ATV or in your truck cab.

fairly good-sized dead logs. I was really pleased with how it transitioned from light vegetation to heavy chopping. The thin blade bit deep into dried wood and threw chunks like an axe. The large handle was comfortable to use and was long enough that I could get two hands on it when necessary.

**"IF YOU CAN APPRECIATE THE UTILITY OF A BILLHOOK BUT WANT SOMETHING THAT'S EVEN MORE VERSATILE, THEN DEFINITELY GIVE BOUCHARD A CALL ..."**

### A Machete for the Kitchen?

One of the reasons I love a good machete—and a key reason why it would be my choice if I really could only choose one blade—is its versatility.

## 5 Quick Facts

**1** Benjamin Bouchard runs the Baronix Knife Co., and he handpicks all of the items featured in his shop.

**2** Bouchard originally designed this tool for possible inclusion in the 2013 Condor Knife and Tool line but it got cut when Condor scaled back some of their releases for that year.

**3** Imacasa, Condor's parent company, offered to still make the design for him, though, and thus the Baronix Machete was born.

**4** Imacasa has more than 45 years of tool-making experience, and they specialize in machete production for parts of the world that still rely heavily on machetes as everyday tools.

**5** The company was founded by the German firm of Gebr. Weyersberg—whose roots go all the way back to 1787 in Solingen and have provided knives, swords and bayonets for centuries.



The Baronix Machete comes with a sturdy leather sheath.



In addition to using the machete on light vegetation and the heavier hardwoods, I also used it in the camp kitchen as well. This really isn't much of a stretch when you look at how machetes are used in much of the world. They often do double duty as kitchen knives and working tools. Here's how this opportunity arose.

Some of the ladies on our annual July outing had seen a blurb on the Internet about chopping off the base of an ear of corn so you could then just squeeze the ear out of the husk without having to peel it. There wasn't a large kitchen knife in camp so they asked me if I had anything that would work. As it happens, the Baronyx was ready at hand and up to the challenge.

We soon found out that they had missed a key step in the corn shucking instructions... and that

**"I WAS REALLY PLEASED WITH HOW IT TRANSITIONED FROM LIGHT VEGETATION TO HEAVY CHOPPING."**

**CONTACT**

Baronyx Knife Co.  
www.BaronyxKnife.com  
(207) 423-9613

was that the corn had to be cooked in the husk first. With that said, I did find out that you can shuck corn extremely quickly and easily by lopping off the base with a machete and then running the blade lightly along the length of the husk to free it up. Once you do that, you just need to peel the husk to the side. It wasn't quite the trick they saw online, but it was very efficient and still much quicker than husking corn the traditional way. It was more fun, too.

Once the corn was husked, the ladies next brought out a small watermelon that also was in need of a larger cutting implement. Once again, the Baronyx saved the day.

The blade size is big, but not so big that it didn't handle these more delicate kitchen chores with ease. I still don't

think my wife will allow me to add one to our home kitchen knife block, but for camping it did a great job.

### All-Around Capability

The Baronyx Machete is a workhorse of a blade, and it's suitable for a wide range of chores, including limbing and pruning to knocking back the vegetation along the property line and even pitching for other tools like a small axe or cleaver.

It's fairly priced at \$69.98, which I think is a good deal for a unique, quality-built blade with a sturdy leather sheath. If you can appreciate the utility of a bill-hook but want something that's even more versatile, then definitely give Bouchard a call or check out his website for this, as well as other unique machetes, axes and brush tools. **KI**



Machetes often fill many roles in third world countries, including duty in the kitchen. The author found that the Baronyx worked just fine in that role for cutting and slicing items too large for a smaller camp kitchen knife.



# EXPERT'S CORNER

## Staying Sharp

WHEN EDGE RETENTION IS YOUR PRIORITY,  
CARBIDES ARE YOUR NECESSITY

STORY AND PHOTOS BY JIM ANKERSON

**WHEN** it comes to a sharp blade, carbides are key.

These alloy particles, which are harder than the steel that surrounds them, are responsible for preventing wear and tear when your knife is put to work. Think of them like rocks in concrete; the rocks are much harder than the rest of the concrete, making the concrete more durable. The alloy (carbide) content in your knife, likewise, has everything to do with how quickly or slowly your knife will dull—important wisdom for any knife maker or user.





m 10-V



These three knives are examples of blades made from CPM 10V, a high-carbide steel.



m 10-V

3 NP 79941



## Cause and Effect

The percentage of carbide in a blade directly correlates to wear resistance and edge retention. In general, the higher the percentage of carbides, the longer your steel will hold an edge—a.k.a. stay sharp. The downside of this is that the blade will be harder to sharpen, because the same resistance to dulling will also resist a sharpening stone.

The savvy knife user will have to consider the costs and benefits of the trade-off, which will affect his choice of a blade with one of three main levels of carbide content. (Refer to the chart on page 43 for examples of each type.)

## 1 High Alloy/High Carbide Content Steels

Steels with very high carbide content are typically composed of 9 percent vanadium, occasionally along with good percentages of molybdenum or tungsten. These steels provide maximum edge retention and wear resistance, especially when cutting abrasive media. They tend to be less tough overall compared to other steels, but when edge retention is important above all else, a high-carbide steel is your best bet.

## TIPS AND TRICKS

### FOR SHARPENING:

Diamonds and silicone stones work best for high-carbide steels, while ceramics are best for touch-ups.

### FOR PERFORMANCE:

Keep the edge finish in the 320- to 600-grit range for maximum performance in slicing, kitchen work and cutting abrasive materials.

## 2 High Alloy/Medium Carbide Steels

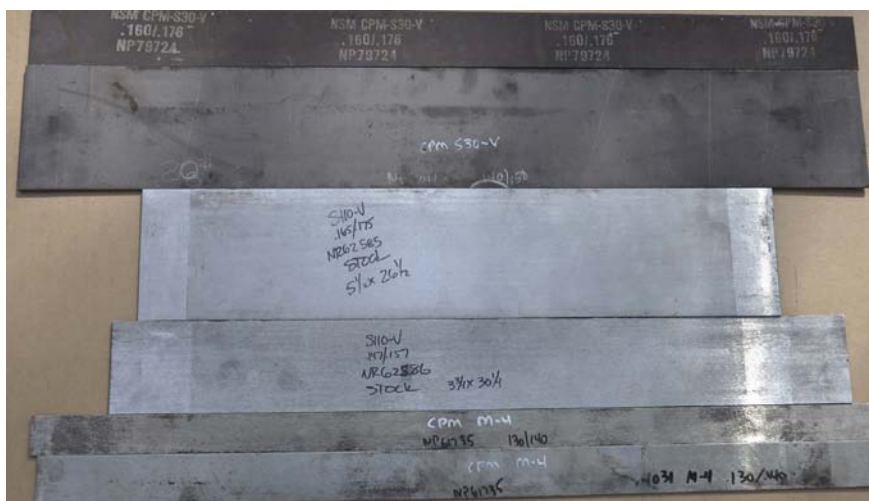
Steels with medium carbide content are made up of approximately 3 or 4 percent vanadium, which I consider the sweet spot for performance. One exception is CPM M4, which has a very high carbide content, but because it contains 4 percent vanadium I classified it with this group.

These medium-carbide steels provide the best balance of edge retention

and toughness. They will hold an edge for a long time while being tough enough for a variety of purposes. We see these types of steels in many mainstream folders and fixed blades.

## 3 Lower Alloy/Low Carbide Steels

Lower-alloy steels may not have the edge retention of the above two groups, but they are typically tougher and stronger, making them best suited



From top to bottom: Uncut steels of CPM S30V, S11V and CPM M4.



A knife with a medium-carbide blade of CPM M4.





Blades in Zapp A11 and K390 steels.

#### High Alloy/ High Carbide

CPM S125V  
CPM S110V  
CPM 90V  
CPM 10V  
CTS 20CP  
K294  
K390

#### High Alloy/ Medium Carbide

CPM S30V  
CPM S35VN  
CPM 3V  
CPM M4  
CPM 154  
CPM Cruwear  
CPM 4V  
ELMAX  
CTS XHP  
M390  
CTS 204P  
CPM 20CV  
ZDP 189  
D2

#### Low Alloy/ Low Carbide

AEB-L  
52100  
1095  
1080  
S7  
A2  
5160


## THE RIGHT TOUCH

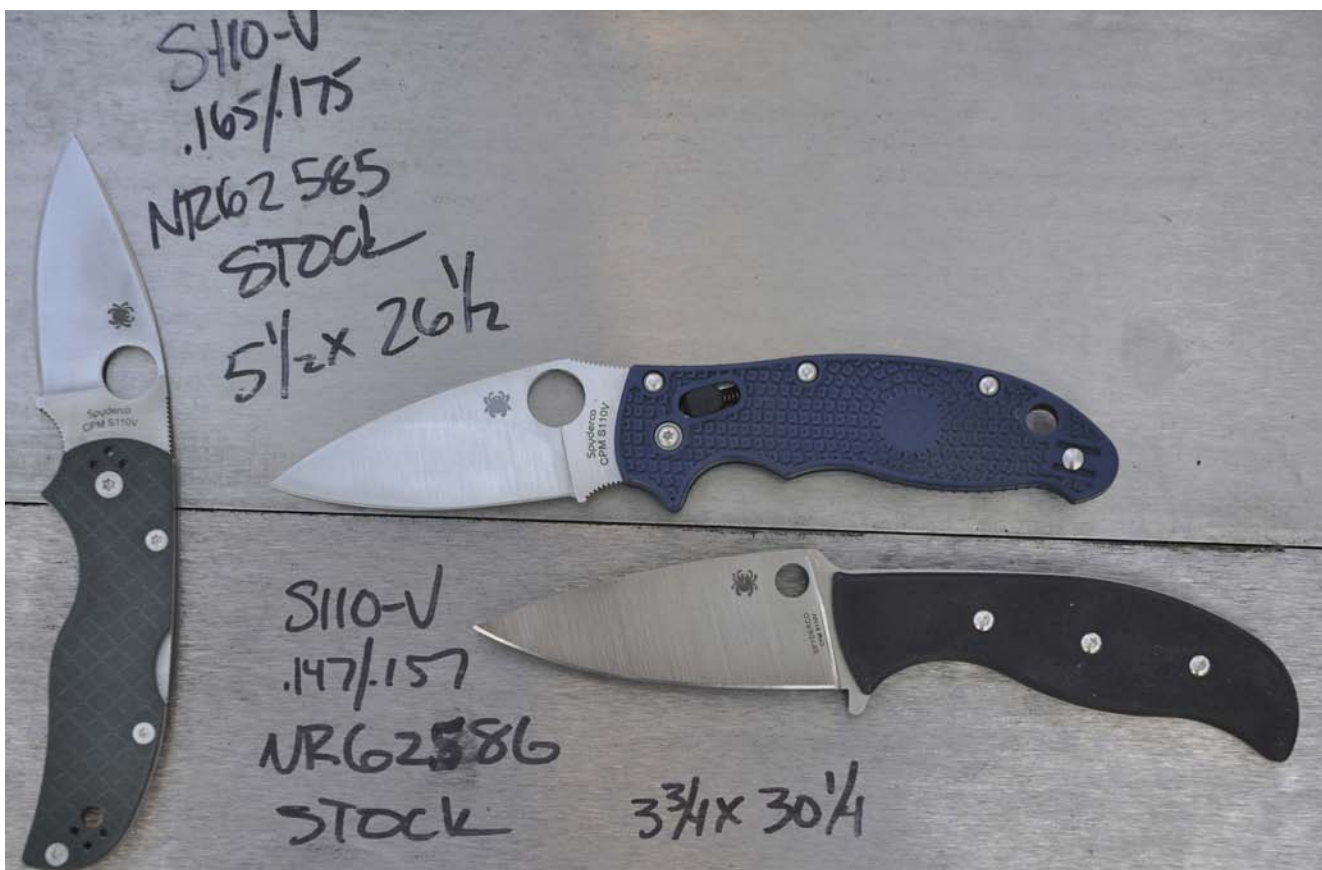
Four common types of carbides, from hardest to softest:

- Vanadium (V) carbides, typically 84 HRC
- Molybdenum (Mo), 77 HRC
- Tungsten (W), 77 HRC
- Chromium (Cr), 68 HRC

for larger knives and swords. Steels lower in carbides also tend to be less expensive, and are often used in more budget-friendly blades.

## Finding the Balance

The performance and dependability of your knife depends significantly on choosing the right type of steel for the job. No steel is perfect for every purpose, but through trial and error, and through dedication to educating yourself, you're bound to find just the right one from the many options available. 



Spyderco knives in S110V.



# JANTZ - USA AT K

## JANTZ USA MADE BLADES

**Jantz** Blades are the highest quality pre-shaped blades available anywhere.  
Each of these hollow ground blades are designed by our team and crafted 100% on site at our facility.

### Oyster Blade



The back is flat.

Designed with beauty and usability in mind, the rounded and ground tip is perfect for shucking oysters practically and safely. Cryogenically treated and razor sharp. Overall length 6 3/4", blade is 2 1/4" x 1.04" wide, .100" thick. Handle Holes 3/16".

CAT.#	STEEL	FINISH	TEMPER	HRC	PRICE
J1008	440C	Satin	Cryo	57-58	29.95
J1089	Damascus	Etched	Cryo	58-60	49.95

### Pattern 35



Overall length 6 5/8", blade is 3" x 3/4" wide, 1/8" thick. Handle Holes 3/16", Thong Hole 3/16".

CAT.#	STEEL	FINISH	TEMPER	HRC	PRICE
J3508	440C	Satin	Cryo	57-58	32.95
J3528	D2	Satin	Cryo	59-61	32.95
J3558	CPM 154	Satin	Cryo	59-60	39.95
J3589	Damascus	Etched	Cryo	58-60	49.95

### Large Caper



Overall length 7 3/4", blade is 3" x 3/4" wide, 1/8" thick. Handle Holes 3/16".

CAT.#	STEEL	FINISH	TEMPER	HRC	PRICE
J8258	CPM 154	Satin	Cryo	59-60	34.95
J8289	Damascus	Etched	Cryo	58-60	59.95

### Small Caper



Overall length 5 1/8", blade is 2" x 1/2" wide, .100" thick. Handle Holes 1/8".

CAT.#	STEEL	FINISH	TEMPER	HRC	PRICE
J8158	CPM 154	Satin	Cryo	59-60	29.95
J8189	Damascus	Etched	Cryo	58-60	29.95

**Jantz** Blades are the highest quality pre-shaped blades available anywhere.

The two blades below are only a portion of our flat ground **Jantz** Blades. Designed and crafted 100% on site at our facility.

### Pattern 31



Pattern 31 is flat ground and has optimal edge holding capability. Overall length 7 5/8", Blade Length 3", width 1 1/8", thickness 5/32". Bolster holes 1/8", Handle Holes 1/4", Thong Hole 1/4".

CAT.#	STEEL	FINISH	TEMPER	HRC	PRICE
J3127	D2	Peened	Cryo	59-61	31.95
J3128	D2	Satin	Cryo	59-61	31.95
J3147	154CM	Peened	Cryo	58-59	35.95
J3148	154CM	Satin	Cryo	58-59	35.95
J3198	1095	Satin	Cryo	57-58	24.95
J319K	1095	Black	Cryo	57-58	24.95
J3189	Damascus	Etched	Cryo	58-60	79.95

### Pattern 65



Overall length 8 7/16", blade is 3 1/2" x 1 1/8" wide, 5/32" thick. Handle Holes 3/16", Thong Hole 3/16".

CAT.#	STEEL	FINISH	TEMPER	HRC	PRICE
J6508	440C	Satin	Cryo	57-58	39.95
J6528	D2	Satin	Cryo	59-61	39.95
J6589	Damascus	Etched	Cryo	58-60	99.95

### Pattern 51



Similar to our Pattern 31 with a full hollow grind. Cryogenically treated and razor sharp. Overall length 7 5/8", blade is 3" x 1 1/8" wide, 5/32" thick. Bolster Holes 1/8", Handle Holes 1/4", Thong Hole 1/4". See online for accessories.

CAT.#	STEEL	FINISH	TEMPER	HRC	PRICE
J5108	440C	Satin	Cryo	57-58	34.95
J5128	D2	Satin	Cryo	59-61	34.95
J5148	154CM	Satin	Cryo	58-59	39.95
J5178	CPMS 90V	Satin	Cryo	56-59	99.95
J5189	Damascus	Etched	Cryo	58-60	99.95

### Pattern 52



Similar to our Pattern 22 with a full hollow grind. Cryogenically treated and razor sharp. Overall length 8 3/8", blade is 3 1/2" x 1 3/32" wide, 5/32" thick. Bolster Holes 1/8", Handle Holes 1/4", Thong Hole 1/4". See page online for accessories.

CAT.#	STEEL	FINISH	TEMPER	HRC	PRICE
J5208	440C	Satin	Cryo	57-58	39.95
J5228	D2	Satin	Cryo	59-61	39.95
J5289	Damascus	Etched	Cryo	58-60	99.95

### Pattern 61



Pattern 61 is flat ground and has optimal edge holding capability. Overall length 7 3/4", Blade Length 3 1/4", width 1 1/4", thickness 9/64" (.140"). Bolster holes 3/32", Handle Holes 3/32" and 3/16", Thong Hole 1/4".

CAT.#	STEEL	FINISH	TEMPER	HRC	PRICE
J6127	D2	Peened	Cryo	59-61	32.95
J6128	D2	Satin	Cryo	59-61	32.95
J6107	440C	Peened	Cryo	57-58	32.95
J6108	440C	Satin	Cryo	57-58	32.95
J6157	CPM154	Peened	Cryo	59-60	44.95
J6158	CPM154	Satin	Cryo	59-60	44.95
J6189	Damascus	Etched	Cryo	58-60	89.95

## Kirinite HANDLE MATERIAL

1 1/2" X 10" Scales below.

### Glow



CAT.#	THICK	PRICE
KI1815	1/8"	10.95
KI1315	3/16"	15.95
KI1415	1/4"	19.95

### Desert Camo



CAT.#	THICK	PRICE
KI1802	1/8"	8.95
KI1302	3/16"	9.95
KI1402	1/4"	14.95

### Lava Flow



CAT.#	THICK	PRICE
KI1804	1/8"	8.95
KI1304	3/16"	9.95
KI1404	1/4"	14.95

### Red Pearl



CAT.#	THICK	PRICE
KI1808	1/8"	8.95
KI1308	3/16"	10.95
KI1408	1/4"	13.95

### Green Pearl



CAT.#	THICK	PRICE
KI1810	1/8"	8.95
KI1310	3/16"	10.95
KI1410	1/4"	13.95



# KNIFE MAKING . COM

## BLADE STEEL

Kirinite® is one of the most stylish resin materials on the market. Use standard wood working techniques at slow working speeds and low temperatures. Pictures are example only. Other colors and 5" x 10" slabs available.

### Patriot



CAT.#	THICK	PRICE
KI1801	1/8"	8.95
KI1301	3/16"	9.95
KI1401	1/4"	14.95

### Toxic Green



CAT.#	THICK	PRICE
KI1803	1/8"	8.95
KI1303	3/16"	9.95
KI1403	1/4"	14.95

### Royal Pearl



CAT.#	THICK	PRICE
KI1807	1/8"	8.95
KI1307	3/16"	9.95
KI1407	1/4"	14.95

### Black Pearl



CAT.#	THICK	PRICE
KI1806	1/8"	8.95
KI1306	3/16"	10.95
KI1406	1/4"	13.95

### Blue Pearl



CAT.#	THICK	PRICE
KI1809	1/8"	8.95
KI1309	3/16"	10.95
KI1409	1/4"	13.95

All steel offered below by **JANTZ** is made in the USA. Visit [www.knifemaking.com](http://www.knifemaking.com) to purchase other widths and thicknesses.

### CPM® S110V® Stainless Steel

CPM S110V is a high alloy martensitic stainless tool steel. Offers better corrosion resistance than 440C or CPM S90V. Aim hardness is 58/61. **Typical chemistry C 2.8, Nb 3.0, Cr 15.25, V 9.00, Mo 2.25, Co 2.5.**

#### 18" Steel

CAT#	THICK	WIDE	FINISH	PRICE
QF118	1/8"	1 1/2"	MILL FINISH	\$ 65.95
QF658	5/32"	2"	MILL FINISH	\$ 98.95
QF718	3/16"	1 1/2"	MILL FINISH	\$ 86.95
QF728	3/16"	2"	MILL FINISH	\$113.95

#### 36" Steel

CAT#	THICK	WIDE	FINISH	PRICE
QF136	1/8"	1 1/2"	MILL FINISH	\$129.95
QF656	5/32"	2"	MILL FINISH	\$195.95
QF716	3/16"	1 1/2"	MILL FINISH	\$171.95
QF726	3/16"	2"	MILL FINISH	\$225.95

### CPM® 20-CV Tool Steel

CPM 20CV is a martensitic stainless steel with exceptionally good wear resistance and outstanding corrosion resistance. Aim for hardness is 58-59Rc. CPM 20CV is a registered trademark of Crucible Industries LLC.

**Typical chemistry: C 1.9, Cr 20.0, V 4.0, Mo 1.0, W 6.**

#### 18" Steel

THICK	WIDE	MILL FINISH	BLANCHARD	PRECISION
1/8"	1 1/2"	TF218 - \$ 36.95	TU218 - \$ 42.95	TG218 - \$ 48.95
1/8"	2"	TF228 - \$ 44.95	TU228 - \$ 52.95	TG228 - \$ 60.95
5/32"	1 1/2"	TF318 - \$ 48.95	TU318 - \$ 54.95	TG318 - \$ 60.95
5/32"	2"	TF328 - \$ 65.95	TU328 - \$ 73.95	TG328 - \$ 81.95

#### 36" Steel

THICK	WIDE	MILL FINISH	BLANCHARD	PRECISION
1/8"	1 1/2"	TF216 - \$ 72.95	TU216 - \$ 84.95	TG216 - \$ 96.95
1/8"	2"	TF226 - \$ 93.95	TU226 - \$109.95	TG226 - \$125.95
5/32"	1 1/2"	TF316 - \$ 90.95	TU316 - \$102.95	TG316 - \$114.95
5/32"	2"	TF326 - \$123.95	TU326 - \$139.95	TG326 - \$155.95

### CPM® REX M4 High Speed Steel

CPM REX M4 HC(HS) is a special purpose high speed steel exhibiting better wear resistance and toughness. Also providing enhanced machinability and grindability. Aim hardness is 63/65. **Typical chemistry: C 1.42, Mn .30, S .06, Cr 4.00, V 4.0, Mo 5.25, W 5.5.**

#### 18" Steel

CAT#	THICK	WIDE	FINISH	PRICE
JF428	3/16"	2"	MILL FINISH	\$ 52.95
JF518	1/4"	1 1/2"	MILL FINISH	\$ 52.95
JF528	1/4"	2"	MILL FINISH	\$ 70.95
JF548	1/4"	4"	MILL FINISH	\$134.95

#### 36" Steel

CAT#	THICK	WIDE	FINISH	PRICE
JF426	3/16"	2"	MILL FINISH	\$103.95
JF516	1/4"	1 1/2"	MILL FINISH	\$103.95
JF526	1/4"	2"	MILL FINISH	\$139.95
JF546	1/4"	4"	MILL FINISH	\$268.95

### CPM® D2 Carbon Steel

CPM D2 is an air-hardening, high carbon, high chromium tool steel, heat treatable to HRC 60-62. It offers excellent abrasion resistance. Machinable in the annealed condition and exhibits minimal distortion on hardening. **Typical chemistry: C 1.50, Mn .40, Si .40, Cr 12.00, V .95, Mo .90.**

#### 18" Steel

THICK	WIDE	MILL FINISH	BLANCHARD	PRECISION
1/8"	1 1/2"	ZF218 - \$ 26.95	ZU218 - \$ 32.95	ZG218 - \$ 38.95
1/8"	2"	ZF228 - \$ 34.95	ZU228 - \$ 42.95	ZG228 - \$ 50.95
5/32"	1 1/2"	ZF318 - \$ 28.95	ZU318 - \$ 34.95	ZG318 - \$ 40.95
5/32"	2"	ZF328 - \$ 39.95	ZU328 - \$ 47.95	ZG328 - \$ 55.95
3/16"	1 1/2"	ZF418 - \$ 35.95	ZU418 - \$ 41.95	ZG418 - \$ 47.95
3/16"	2"	ZF428 - \$ 45.95	ZU428 - \$ 53.95	ZG428 - \$ 61.95

#### 36" Steel

THICK	WIDE	MILL FINISH	BLANCHARD	PRECISION
1/8"	1 1/2"	ZF216 - \$ 51.95	ZU216 - \$ 63.95	ZG216 - \$ 75.95
1/8"	2"	ZF226 - \$ 65.95	ZU226 - \$ 81.95	ZG226 - \$ 97.95
5/32"	1 1/2"	ZF316 - \$ 55.95	ZU316 - \$ 67.95	ZG316 - \$ 79.95
5/32"	2"	ZF326 - \$ 75.95	ZU326 - \$ 91.95	ZG326 - \$107.95
3/16"	1 1/2"	ZF416 - \$ 66.95	ZU416 - \$ 78.95	ZG416 - \$ 90.95
3/16"	2"	ZF426 - \$ 86.95	ZU426 - \$102.95	ZG426 - \$118.95

## FOLDER ACCESSORIES

# GTC

Bearings



GTC 440C stainless steel thrust ball bearings caged in stainless steel retainers developed by **Gustavo T. Cecchini's GTC Knives** to reduce friction and failures, increase opening time, and easier cleaning. The 100% stainless steel construction eliminates the problems of other thrust bearings that are not 100% stainless. Sold separately.

CAT.#	O.D.	I.D.	BALL DIA.	PRICE
GC101	.354"	.157"	.062"	1.29
GC106	.358"	.192"	.062"	1.29
GC111	.378"	.218"	.062"	1.29
GC121	.415"	.255"	.062"	1.29
GC102	.454"	.258"	.078"	1.29

### Decorative Torx Screws for Pivot Pins

Designed and manufactured by **JANTZ** in our facility. Use with our threaded pivot barrels. 303 Stainless Torx head screw, .350" in length and threaded 6-48.



CAT.#	NAME	DIAMETER	TORX	PRICE
FF401	Spinner	1/4"	T6	2.49
FF402	Galaxy	1/4"	T6	2.49
FF403	Orchid	1/4"	T6	2.49
FF404	Turbine	1/4"	T6	2.49
FF271	Solar Flare	5/16"	T8	2.49
FF273	Gear	5/16"	T8	2.49
FF275	Bullseye	5/16"	T8	2.49
FF276	Cosmos	5/16"	T8	2.49
FF277	Texas Star	5/16"	T8	2.49

### Threaded Pivot Only



Pivot barrels are threaded 6-48.

CAT.#	O.D.	LENGTH	FITS	PRICE
F85B	3/16"	.350"	1/4"	1.95
F88B	3/16"	.500"	1/4"	1.95
F96B	1/4"	.350"	5/16"	1.95
F98B	1/4"	.500"	5/16"	1.95

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# SHOT BEST OF

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE 2015  
SHOOTING, HUNTING & OUTDOOR  
TRADE SHOW

BY KI STAFF AND FIELD EDITORS

We look forward every year to the Shooting, Hunting & Outdoor Trade Show—better known as SHOT—and 2015 did not disappoint.

Once again, we joined some 65,000 industry professionals in Las Vegas to get a first look at the hottest new products from all your favorite companies, and we've brought back some highlights for our readers.





## Editors' Choice

There was no shortage of impressive knives at SHOT, but a few stood out to us above all the rest. Here are a few of our field editors' personal favorites, in alphabetical order.

- Benchmade 761 Ti Monolock (pg. 48)
- CRKT Argus (pg. 54)
- Condor Duku Parang (pg. 55)
- ESEE RB3 (pg. 59)
- Ontario Bushcraft Woodsman (pg. 65)
- Spartan Velos (pg. 71)
- Spyderco Chaparral (pg. 73)
- TOPS Mini Scandi Survival (pg. 74)
- Zero Tolerance 0452 CF (pg. 78)

## BEAR & SON

[www.BearAndSonCutlery.com](http://www.BearAndSonCutlery.com)  
(256) 435-2227

Bear & Son continues to balance between classic, traditional pocketknives and more modern tactical designs in the form of the Bear OPS line—all, of course, made in the USA. They had some particularly handsome-looking options on display at SHOT, such as ivory handles paired with Damascus blades, and a limited edition collaboration with Michael Prater of Painted Pony Designs.

### IV26D EXECUTIVE LOCKBACK

**BLADE LENGTH:** 2.25 inches  
**BLADE MATERIAL:** Damascus  
**HANDLE MATERIAL:** Mastodon ivory  
**WEIGHT:** 1.8 ounces  
**LOCK:** Lockback  
**MSRP:** \$144.99



### BEAR OPS AC-350

**OVERALL LENGTH:** 5 inches (closed)  
**BLADE LENGTH:** 3.5 inches  
**BLADE MATERIAL:** CPM-S30V  
**HANDLE MATERIAL:** G10  
**WEIGHT:** 5.1 ounces  
**OPENING MECHANISM:** Push-button  
**MSRP:** \$189.99





## BENCHMADE

www.Benchmade.com  
(800) 800-7427

If we had to choose one word to describe Benchmade's 2015 lineup, it would be "sophisticated"—all streamlined designs with impeccable fit and finish, some featuring premium materials. A number of these products feature new locking and opening mechanisms, such as an ambidextrous button the user can simply pinch for rapid blade deployment. Users will also notice a number of new autos available, in response to many states overturning their bans on these knives in 2014.

EDITORS'  
CHOICE



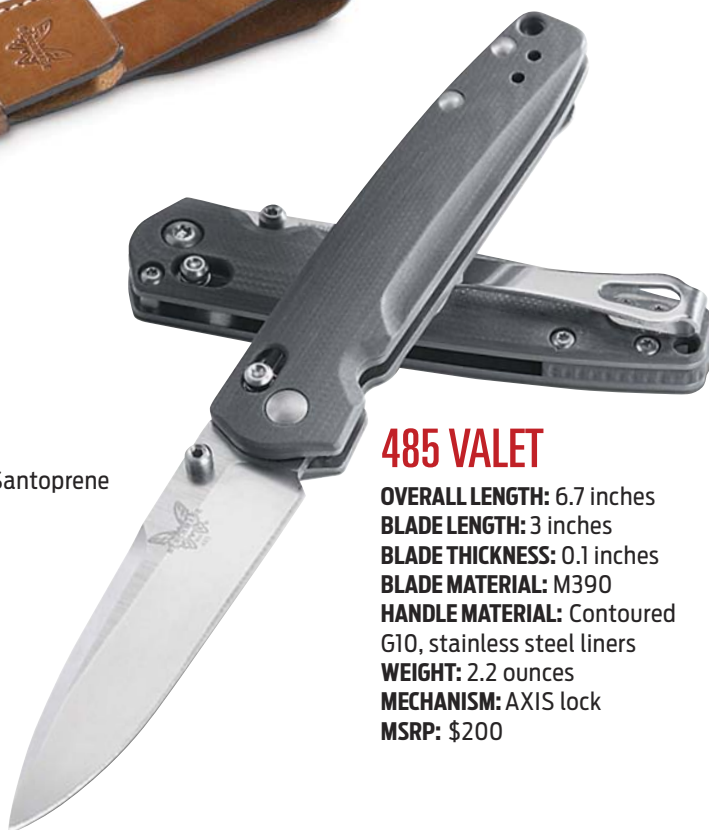
### 761 TI MONOLOCK

**OVERALL LENGTH:** 8.6 inches  
**BLADE LENGTH:** 3.7 inches  
**BLADE THICKNESS:** 0.1 inches  
**BLADE MATERIAL:** M390  
**HANDLE MATERIAL:** 6AL-4V titanium  
**WEIGHT:** 4.4 ounces  
**MECHANISM:** Monolock  
**MSRP:** \$390



### 153 JUNGLE BOLO

**OVERALL LENGTH:** 14.3 inches  
**BLADE LENGTH:** 9.7 inches  
**BLADE THICKNESS:** 0.2 inches  
**BLADE MATERIAL:** 1095  
**HANDLE MATERIAL:** Textured Santoprene  
**WEIGHT:** 11.8 ounces  
**MSRP:** \$125



### 485 VALET

**OVERALL LENGTH:** 6.7 inches  
**BLADE LENGTH:** 3 inches  
**BLADE THICKNESS:** 0.1 inches  
**BLADE MATERIAL:** M390  
**HANDLE MATERIAL:** Contoured G10, stainless steel liners  
**WEIGHT:** 2.2 ounces  
**MECHANISM:** AXIS lock  
**MSRP:** \$200



## BOKER

[www.Boker.de/us](http://www.Boker.de/us)  
(800) 835-6433

With seven brands internationally, Böker has plenty of new products to keep up with at any given moment. Their booth this year featured a particularly eye-catching lineup, and while we obviously couldn't do proper field testing in the convention center, it was easy to see these knives' attractiveness would be rivaled only by their performance.



## 67 WILD CARBON DAMASCUS

**OVERALL LENGTH:** 7.6 inches  
**BLADE LENGTH:** 3.4 inches  
**BLADE MATERIAL:** Damascus  
**HANDLE MATERIAL:** Carbon fiber  
**WEIGHT:** 4.3 ounces  
**LOCK:** Frame  
**OPENING MECHANISM:** Thumb stud  
**DESIGNER:** Jens Ansø  
**MSRP:** \$699



## A-F 12

**OVERALL LENGTH:** 10.75 inches  
**BLADE LENGTH:** 6 inches  
**BLADE MATERIAL:** 440C  
**HANDLE MATERIAL:** Fiberglass-reinforced Delrin  
**SHEATH:** Kydex with Tek-Lok  
**MSRP:** \$215



## ARBOLITO EL GIGANTE

**OVERALL LENGTH:** 14.75 inches  
**BLADE LENGTH:** 8.4 inches  
**BLADE MATERIAL:** N695  
**HANDLE MATERIAL:** Guayacan ebony, red fiber liners  
**WEIGHT:** 15.9 ounces  
**MSRP:** \$189.95



## BUCK KNIVES

www.BuckKnives.com  
(800) 326-2825

At the 2014 SHOT Show, Buck only had a few new products to show due to their focus on their 110th anniversary. This year, however, was an entirely different ballgame, with new products galore. The majority of these new offerings will primarily appeal to the outdoorsmen, but tactical users should take note as well. Among other things, Buck has now introduced their first auto folder.

### 106 COMPADRE AXE

**OVERALL LENGTH:** 12.75 inches  
**BLADE LENGTH:** 3 inches  
**BLADE MATERIAL:** 5160 with red powder coating  
**HANDLE MATERIAL:** Heritage walnut  
Dymondwood  
**WEIGHT:** 23.4 ounces  
**MSRP:** \$120



### 898 IMPACT

**OVERALL LENGTH:** 4.6 inches (closed)  
**BLADE LENGTH:** 3.1 inches  
**BLADE MATERIAL:** S30V  
**HANDLE MATERIAL:** Anodized 6061 T-6 aluminum  
with grip texture  
**WEIGHT:** 4.1 ounces  
**LOCK:** Button  
**OPENING:** Auto  
**MSRP:** \$220



### 547 OPEN SEASON FOLDING SKINNER

**OVERALL LENGTH:** 4.75 inches (closed)  
**BLADE LENGTH:** 3.75 inches  
**BLADE MATERIAL:** S30V  
**HANDLE MATERIAL:** Rosewood Dymondwood  
**WEIGHT:** 6 ounces  
**OPENING MECHANISM:** Flipper and thumb disc  
**MSRP:** \$125



# CAMILLUS

www.CamillusKnives.com  
(800) 835-2263

Camillus had an impressively intimidating selection of products lined up for 2015, from folders with Camillus' lightning-fast Robo Lock mechanism, to well-equipped multitools, to collaborations with Ultimate Survival Alaska stars Grady Powell and Jared Ogden. The latter options are made entirely in the USA, and all designs include Camillus' lifetime warranty.

## M12 BAYONET

**OVERALL LENGTH:** 12 inches  
**BLADE LENGTH:** 6 inches  
**BLADE MATERIAL:** 420 stainless  
**HANDLE MATERIAL:** Paracord  
**MSRP:** \$35.99



## GRADY POWELL TANTO (OFFICIAL NAME PENDING)

**OVERALL LENGTH:** 10.5 inches  
**BLADE LENGTH:** 4.9 inches  
**BLADE MATERIAL:** 1095HC  
**HANDLE MATERIAL:** G10  
**DESIGNER:** Grady Powell  
**MSRP:** Pending



## CAS IBERIA

[www.CASiberia.com](http://www.CASiberia.com)  
(800) 635-9366

CAS Iberia has a lot of new products, but some of the real standouts are those from the Citadel line. Citadel Knives is a custom shop out of Cambodia that's putting out some exemplary pieces. They mix modern materials with ethnic flair and the build quality is definitely custom-level work.



### HUSKY

**OVERALL LENGTH:** 9 inches  
**BLADE LENGTH:** 3.5 inches  
**BLADE MATERIAL:** Bohler N690Co  
**HANDLE MATERIAL:** Rayskin over a wooden core  
**WEIGHT:** 7 ounces  
**LOCK:** Liner  
**OPENING MECHANISM:** Thumb stud  
**MSRP:** \$265



### GURKHA KUKRI

**OVERALL LENGTH:** 13.75 inches  
**BLADE LENGTH:** 8.25 inches  
**BLADE MATERIAL:** DNH7HC  
**HANDLE MATERIAL:** Palisander wood  
**WEIGHT:** 18.5 ounces  
**MSRP:** \$415

### CHANTHA

**OVERALL LENGTH:** 6.9 inches  
**BLADE LENGTH:** 2.75 inches  
**BLADE MATERIAL:** Bohler N690Co  
**HANDLE MATERIAL:** Ebony or bone  
**WEIGHT:** 5 ounces  
**LOCK:** Liner  
**OPENING MECHANISM:** Thumb stud  
**MSRP:** \$175





## COAST LIGHTS, KNIVES & MULTITOOLS

[www.CoastPortland.com](http://www.CoastPortland.com)  
(877) 704-4545

Whereas some companies are constantly branching out into new categories, Coast opts to mainly stick to perfecting its specialty: LED technology and blades that incorporate it. This year's products look familiar, but are sturdier and more innovative than ever before.



### LK375

**OVERALL LENGTH:** 8.5 inches  
**BLADE LENGTH:** 3.75 inches  
**BLADE MATERIAL:** 7Cr17  
**HANDLE MATERIAL:** Polycarbonate over stainless steel liner  
**WEIGHT:** 5.2 ounces  
**LOCK:** Liner  
**LIGHT:** 110 lumens, AAA battery-operated  
**SPECIAL FEATURE:** Waterproof design  
**MSRP:** \$58.99



### DX338

**OVERALL LENGTH:** 8.5 inches  
**BLADE LENGTH:** 3.63 inches  
**BLADE MATERIAL:** 7Cr17  
**HANDLE MATERIAL:** Fiberglass-filled nylon  
**WEIGHT:** 3.7 ounces  
**LOCK:** Liner lock plus patented double-lock system  
**MSRP:** \$19.99



## COLUMBIA RIVER KNIFE & TOOL

www.CRKT.com  
(503) 685-5015

With a stable of top-notch designers, including Knifemakers Hall of Famer Ken Onion and Karen Hood of Survival.com, it's no surprise that CRKT has some really great knives coming out this year. CRKT is also very excited about their recent re-branding, including a new logo, packaging and "Confidence In Hand" tagline, which has been very well received and has opened the doors to expanded availability in large retail chains such as Cabela's, Bass Pro Shops and others coming this year.



### ARGUS

**OPEN OVERALL LENGTH:** 8.1 inches  
**CLOSED LENGTH:** 4.6 inches  
**BLADE LENGTH:** 3.6 inches  
**THICKNESS:** 0.1 inches  
**WEIGHT:** 4.2 ounces  
**BLADE MATERIAL:** AUS-8  
**HANDLE MATERIAL:** 6061 aluminum  
**LOCK TYPE:** Liner  
**SAFETY SYSTEM:** FireSafe  
**OPENING MECHANISM:** Outburst spring assist  
**DESIGNER:** Matthew Lerch  
**MSRP:** \$140



### NO TIME OFF

**OPEN OVERALL LENGTH:** 7.25 inches  
**CLOSED LENGTH:** 4.3 inches  
**WEIGHT:** 5.9 ounces  
**BLADE LENGTH:** 3 inches  
**THICKNESS:** 0.2 inches  
**BLADE MATERIAL:** BD1  
**HANDLE MATERIAL:** Glass-reinforced nylon  
**LINER:** 420J2  
**LOCK TYPE:** Liner  
**SAFETY SYSTEM:** Ikoma Lock Safety (ILS)  
**OPENING MECHANISM:** IKBS ball bearing pivot system  
**DESIGNER:** Flavio Ikoma  
**MSRP:** \$125

### HUNT'N FISCH

**OPEN OVERALL LENGTH:** 7.25 inches  
**WEIGHT:** 3.6 ounces  
**BLADE LENGTH:** 3 inches  
**THICKNESS:** 0.1 inches  
**BLADE MATERIAL:** 8Cr13MoV  
**HANDLE MATERIAL:** G10  
**CARRY SYSTEM:** Leather sheath  
**WEIGHT:** 1.5 ounces  
**INCLUDES:** Extra black lanyard fob  
**DESIGNER:** The late Larry Fischer  
**MSRP:** \$99.99

*100 percent of the net profits of this knife go to the Pancreatic Cancer Action Network in memory of Larry Fischer*





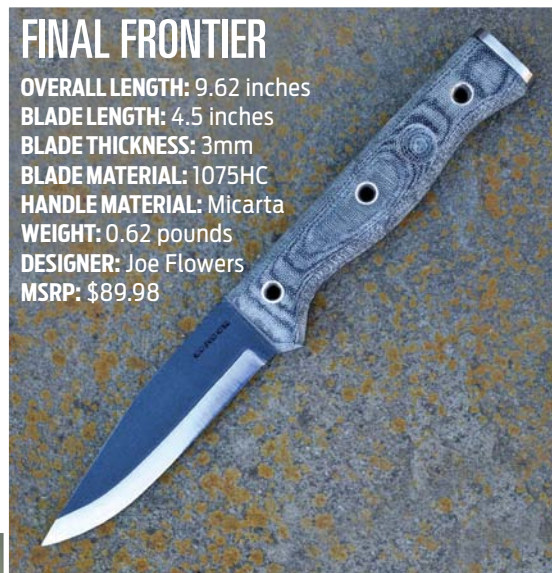
## CONDOR TOOL & KNIFE

[www.CondorTK.com](http://www.CondorTK.com)  
(407) 354-3488

Condor continues to impress with its range of field knives and machetes. Some of the standouts at SHOT this year were the Duku Parang machetes, the Final Frontier knife, and the Primitive Bush Knife. The Duku machetes are Joe Flowers' designs, while the Primitive Bush Knife was designed by Matt Graham of TV's Dual Survival.

### FINAL FRONTIER

**OVERALL LENGTH:** 9.62 inches  
**BLADE LENGTH:** 4.5 inches  
**BLADE THICKNESS:** 3mm  
**BLADE MATERIAL:** 1075HC  
**HANDLE MATERIAL:** Micarta  
**WEIGHT:** 0.62 pounds  
**DESIGNER:** Joe Flowers  
**MSRP:** \$89.98



### DUKU PARANG MACHETES

**OVERALL LENGTH:** 16.75 and 22.25 inches  
**BLADE LENGTH:** 10.5 and 15.5 inches  
**BLADE THICKNESS:** 4.5mm  
**BLADE MATERIAL:** 1075HC  
**HANDLE MATERIAL:** Walnut hardwood  
**WEIGHT:** 1.48 pounds and 1.86 pounds  
**DESIGNER:** Joe Flowers  
**MSRP:** \$94.98 and \$104.98



### PRIMITIVE BUSH KNIFE

**OVERALL LENGTH:** 13.5 inches  
**BLADE LENGTH:** 8 inches  
**BLADE THICKNESS:** 3 millimeters  
**BLADE MATERIAL:** 420HC  
**HANDLE MATERIAL:** Walnut hardwood  
**WEIGHT:** 15 ounces  
**DESIGNER:** Matt Graham  
**MSRP:** \$99.98





## DPx GEAR

www.DPxGear.com  
(888) 233-3924

Started by adventurer Robert Young Pelton, DPx Gear had one purpose: to survive brutal use in hostile environments. This year the folks at DPx Gear plan to focus on perfecting the choices available within their existing platforms, offering different handle scale materials and other options to let you find the knife that will not only perform when you need it most, but will also fit your individuality.



### DPx H.E.F.T. 12 CHOP

**OVERALL LENGTH:** 18.6 inches  
**BLADE LENGTH:** 12.5 inches  
**BLADE THICKNESS:** 0.2 inches  
**BLADE STEEL:** Sleipner, 60 HRC  
**BLADE FINISH:** Stonewashed  
**HANDLE:** G10 or Micarta  
**DESIGNER:** Robert Young Pelton  
**MSRP:** \$300



### DPx H.E.A.T./F

**OVERALL LENGTH:** 6.2 inches  
**BLADE LENGTH:** 2.3 inches  
**BLADE THICKNESS:** 0.2 inches  
**STYLE:** Gray  
**TYPE:** Folding  
**BLADE EDGE:** Smooth  
**STEEL:** Elmax  
**WEIGHT:** 4.2 ounces  
**CONFIGURATION:** Right-handed  
**LOCK:** Frame Lock  
**DESIGNER:** Robert Young Pelton  
**MSRP:** \$262.50

### DPx H.I.T. SKINNER

**OVERALL LENGTH:** 6.4 inches  
**BLADE LENGTH:** 2.5 inches  
**BLADE THICKNESS:** 0.2 inches  
**TYPE:** Fixed  
**BLADE EDGE:** Smooth  
**STEEL:** CPM S35-VN  
**WEIGHT:** 3.4 ounces  
**DESIGNER:** Robert Young Pelton  
**MSRP:** \$187.50





## EMERSON KNIVES

[www.EmersonKnives.com](http://www.EmersonKnives.com)  
(310) 539-5633

Emerson Knives' focus on hard-use tactical knives is always apparent, and their offerings for 2015 highlight that fact in some solid, combat-oriented designs. All new models of Emerson folders will be featuring their new Bearing System, which allows for extremely rapid blade deployment for even more rapid implementation. Emerson also plans to put more focus into their fixed-blade line in the coming year, so make sure to keep your eyes on them for your next field knife.

### RANGEMASTER (BOWIE AND SPEARPOINT)

**OVERALL LENGTH:** 8.4 inches  
**BLADE LENGTH:** 3.5 inches  
**BLADE THICKNESS:** 0.1 inches  
**HARDNESS:** RC 57-59  
**HANDLE:** G10  
**BLADE:** 154CM  
**FINISH:** Stone washed or black coating  
**LOCK:** Liner  
**OPENING MECHANISM:** Wave Feature, thumb button or flipper  
**DESIGNER:** Ernest Emerson  
**MSRP:** \$239.95



### IRON DRAGON

**OVERALL LENGTH:** 8.9 inches  
**BLADE LENGTH:** 3.8 inches  
**BLADE THICKNESS:** 0.1 inches  
**HARDNESS:** RC 57-59  
**HANDLE:** G10  
**BLADE:** 154CM  
**FINISH:** Stone washed or black coating  
**LOCK:** Frame  
**OPENING MECHANISM:** Wave Feature, thumb button  
**DESIGNER:** Ernest Emerson  
**MSRP:** \$379.95



### GOVERNMENT MULE

**OVERALL LENGTH:** 10.2 inches  
**BLADE LENGTH:** 4.8 inches  
**BLADE THICKNESS:** 0.2 inches  
**HARDNESS:** RC 57-59  
**HANDLE:** Micarta  
**BLADE:** 154CM  
**FINISH:** Stone washed  
**DESIGNER:** Ernest Emerson  
**MSRP:** \$299.95





## ESEE KNIVES

[www.JungleTraining.com](http://www.JungleTraining.com)  
(256) 613-0372

ESEE Knives has a trip of new blades in their Camp-Lore series coming for 2015. The Camp-Lore knives embody basic, traditional bushcraft knife features and are all built in the USA. ESEE tapped some of the experts in the bushcraft and outdoors field such as Dave Canterbury, Reuben Bolieu and James Gibson. Look for a fourth addition to the Camp-Lore line sometime around the third quarter of 2015 as well.



### DC6

**OVERALL LENGTH:** 10.8 inches  
**BLADE LENGTH:** 6 inches  
**BLADE THICKNESS:** 0.18 inches  
**BLADE MATERIAL:** 1095HC  
**HANDLE MATERIAL:** Micarta  
**WEIGHT:** 11 ounces  
**DESIGNER:** Dave Canterbury  
**MSRP:** Pending



### JG3

**OVERALL LENGTH:** 7.6 inches  
**BLADE LENGTH:** 3 inches  
**BLADE THICKNESS:** 0.125 inches  
**BLADE MATERIAL:** 1095HC  
**HANDLE MATERIAL:** Micarta  
**WEIGHT:** 4.5 ounces  
**DESIGNER:** James Gibson  
**MSRP:** Pending



## RB3

**OVERALL LENGTH:** 8.1 inches  
**BLADE LENGTH:** 3 inches  
**BLADE THICKNESS:** 0.125 inches  
**BLADE MATERIAL:** 1095HC  
**HANDLE MATERIAL:** Micarta  
**WEIGHT:** 6 ounces  
**DESIGNER:** Reuben Bolieu  
**MSRP:** Pending



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## GERBER LEGENDARY BLADES

www.GerberGear.com  
(855) 544-0150

Gerber had a multitude of new products this year, making it tough to pick just a few to highlight. We looked at one item from their tactical line, one general-purpose item and one field/bushcraft piece—all of which are sure to prove themselves trustworthy versatile tools for their intended users.

### STRONGARM

**OVERALL LENGTH:** 9.8 inches

**BLADE LENGTH:** 4.8 inches

**BLADE MATERIAL:** 420HC

**HANDLE MATERIAL:** Glass-filled nylon with rubber overmold

**WEIGHT:** 7.2 ounces

**MSRP:** \$85.99



### FREESCAPE CAMP KITCHEN KIT

**CAMP KITCHEN KNIFE**

**OVERALL LENGTH:** 9.1 inches

**BLADE LENGTH:** 3.8 inches

**BLADE MATERIAL:** 7Cr17MoV

**WEIGHT:** 6.5 ounces

**PARING KNIFE**

**OVERALL LENGTH:** 7.0 inches

**BLADE LENGTH:** 3.0 inches

**BLADE MATERIAL:** 7Cr17MoV

**WEIGHT:** 1.2 ounces

**MSRP:** \$88 (full kit)



### GATOR GOLOK MACHETE

**OVERALL LENGTH:** 19 inches

**BLADE LENGTH:** 12 inches

**BLADE MATERIAL:** 1050 High-Carbon Steel

**HANDLE MATERIAL:** Gator Grip overmold

**WEIGHT:** 25.3 ounces

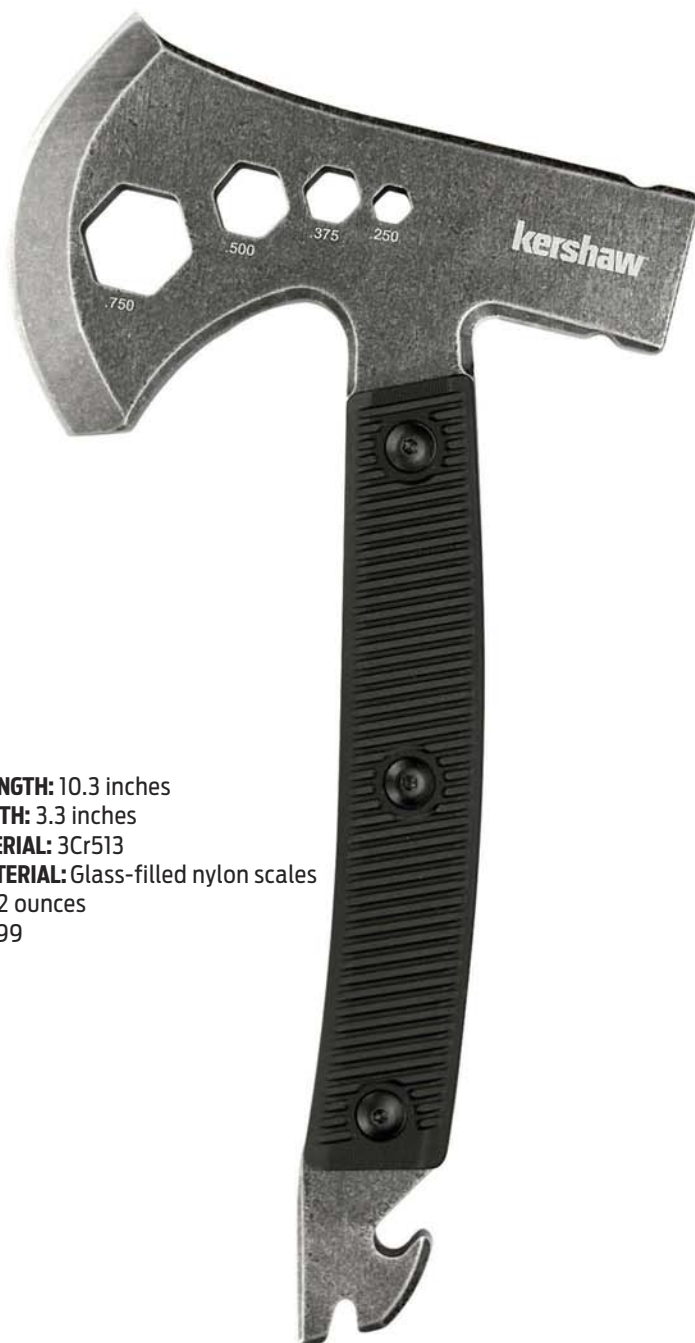
**MSRP:** \$65



## KERSHAW

[www.Kershaw.KAIUSALtd.com](http://www.Kershaw.KAIUSALtd.com)  
(800) 325-2891

Kershaw this year has been diversifying its offerings, and all of it made to impress. One area they've been working on is their Starter series—knives designed to be economical and well made; a definite bang for your buck product. To appeal to the higher end of the market, Kershaw has continued to collaborate with Ernest Emerson and Rick Hinderer. Finally, in the wake of various states overturning their bans on auto knives, Kershaw has introduced a new Automatics line sure to gain plenty of interest.



### TINDER

**OVERALL LENGTH:** 10.3 inches  
**BLADE LENGTH:** 3.3 inches  
**BLADE MATERIAL:** 3Cr513  
**HANDLE MATERIAL:** Glass-filled nylon scales  
**WEIGHT:** 15.2 ounces  
**MSRP:** \$44.99

### KERSHAW LAUNCH 3

**OVERALL LENGTH:** 7.8 inches  
**BLADE LENGTH:** 3.4 inches  
**BLADE MATERIAL:** CPM154  
**HANDLE MATERIAL:** Anodized aluminum  
**WEIGHT:** 3.4 ounces  
**LOCK:** Push button  
**OPENING MECHANISM:** Push button auto  
**MSRP:** \$159.99

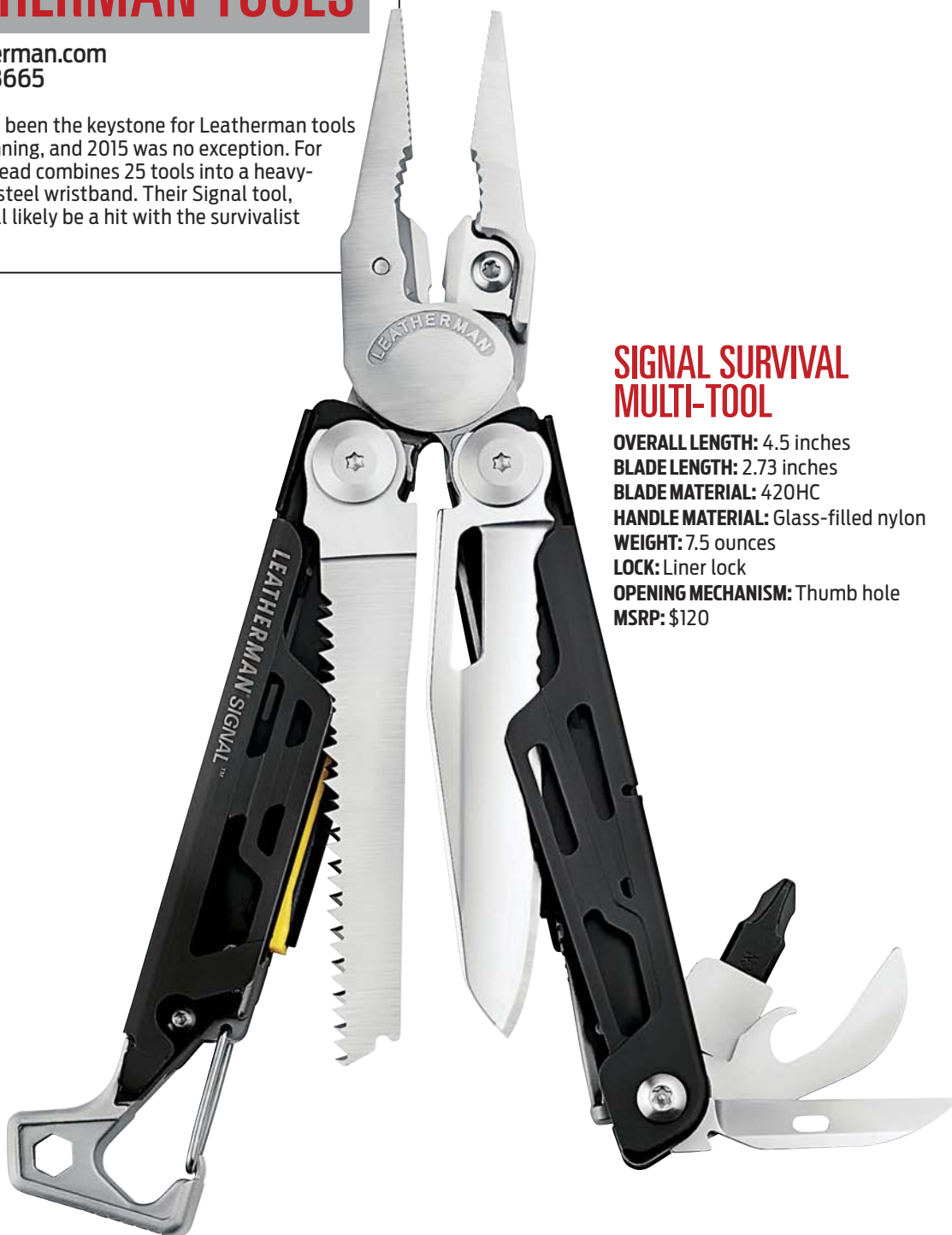




## LEATHERMAN TOOLS

[www.Leatherman.com](http://www.Leatherman.com)  
(800) 847-8665

Innovation has been the keystone for Leatherman tools since the beginning, and 2015 was no exception. For starters, the Tread combines 25 tools into a heavy-duty stainless steel wristband. Their Signal tool, meanwhile, will likely be a hit with the survivalist crowd.



### SIGNAL SURVIVAL MULTI-TOOL

**OVERALL LENGTH:** 4.5 inches  
**BLADE LENGTH:** 2.73 inches  
**BLADE MATERIAL:** 420HC  
**HANDLE MATERIAL:** Glass-filled nylon  
**WEIGHT:** 7.5 ounces  
**LOCK:** Liner lock  
**OPENING MECHANISM:** Thumb hole  
**MSRP:** \$120

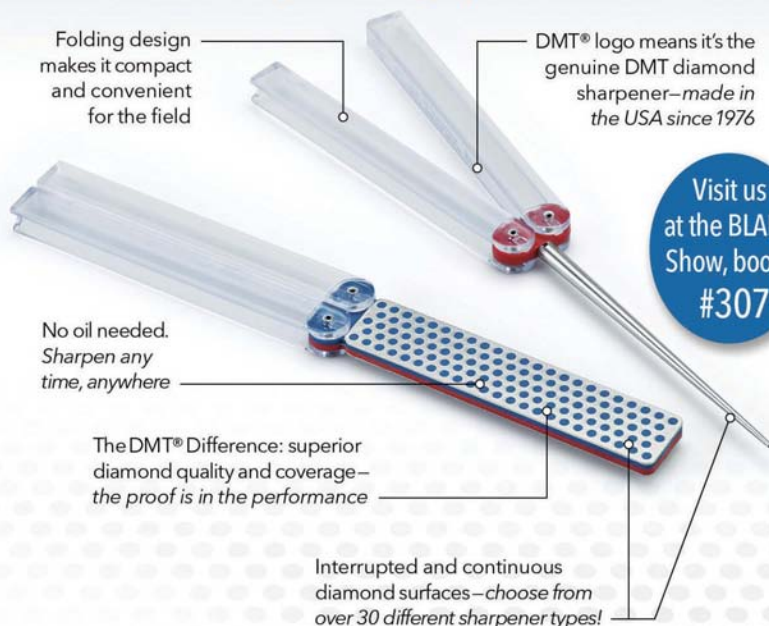


## TREAD

BLADE MATERIAL: 17-4  
MSRP: \$150-\$200



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Crocodile Skin

Mammoth Bark Ivory

Merino Ram Horn

Giraffe Bone

Blesbok Horn

Nguni Horn

Fossilized Walrus

Kudu Horn

Wildebeest

Coral

Jantz searches diligently for the highest quality and most unique materials. As we procure products from around the world, we offer them on our website at [knifemaking.com](http://knifemaking.com). You may also call for assistance in choosing your special piece.

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# MORAKNIV

[www.Morakniv.com](http://www.Morakniv.com)

Morakniv continues to uphold its worldwide reputation for knives that are not only durable and versatile, but also affordable. Their full product line for this year stays true to its craftsman-focused design, including their traditional Scandi grind, but includes cool new features such as interlocking sheaths.

## TACTICAL SRT

**BLADE LENGTH:** 4.3 inches

**BLADE THICKNESS:** 0.1 inches

**BLADE MATERIAL:** Stainless

**WEIGHT:** 6.3 ounces

**SHEATH:** Bushcraft Black SRT with black MOLLE-compatible sheath of heavy-duty nylon

**MSRP:** \$84.99 (\$129.99 with MOLLE sheath)



## PRO C

**BLADE LENGTH:** 3.6 inches

**BLADE THICKNESS:** 0.1 inches

**BLADE MATERIAL:** Carbon

**WEIGHT:** 4 ounces

**MSRP:** \$13.99



## PRECISION

**BLADE LENGTH:** 3 inches

**BLADE THICKNESS:** 0.1 inches

**BLADE MATERIAL:** Stainless

**WEIGHT:** 3.5 ounces

**MSRP:** \$19.99



## ONTARIO KNIFE COMPANY

www.OntarioKnife.com  
(800) 222-5233

Ontario is venturing into new territory in some ways—including their Agilite line of kitchen knives, which have appeared in previous issues of Knives Illustrated, and working toward a factory custom shop—but also refining time-tested designs in other ways. For example, the Utilitac's assisted opener works just about as quickly as an automatic, and their Vulpine survival knife combines sturdy power with extremely light weight. There's something for just about everyone among the company's offerings for 2015.

### UTILITAC 1-A

**OVERALL LENGTH:** 7.1 inches

**BLADE LENGTH:** 3 inches

**BLADE MATERIAL:** AUS-8

**HANDLE MATERIAL:** G10

**OPENING MECHANISM:** Thumb stud

**DESIGNER:** Joe Pardue

**MSRP:** \$76.25 (satin), \$78.75 (black)



### VULPINE

**OVERALL LENGTH:** 10.3 inches

**BLADE LENGTH:** 4.8 inches

**BLADE MATERIAL:** 5160

**HANDLE MATERIAL:** Skeleton with paracord wrap

**MSRP:** \$92.50



### BUSHCRAFT WOODSMAN

**OVERALL LENGTH:** 15 inches

**BLADE LENGTH:** 9.1 inches

**BLADE MATERIAL:** 5160

**HANDLE MATERIAL:** American walnut

**DESIGNER:** Dan Maragni

**MSRP:** \$162.50

## PUMA KNIFE COMPANY USA

[www.PumaKnifeCompanyUSA.com](http://www.PumaKnifeCompanyUSA.com)  
(913) 888-5524

For solid, traditional, no-frills knives, it's hard to compete with Puma. Joining the Puma family this year are a handful of designs that users will recognize, but with a few tweaks—for example, traditional handles with a new blade profile, or vice versa. And as usual, their options are among the most budget-friendly for the discerning outdoorsman.



### SGB MULE DEER HUNTER

**OVERALL LENGTH:** 7.5 inches  
**BLADE LENGTH:** 3.5 inches  
**BLADE THICKNESS:** 0.2 inches  
**BLADE MATERIAL:** 440A  
**HANDLE MATERIAL:** Stag  
**WEIGHT:** 5.1 ounces  
**MSRP:** \$57



### SGB DEADWOOD CANYON

**OVERALL LENGTH:** 8 inches  
**BLADE LENGTH:** 3.8 inches  
**BLADE THICKNESS:** 0.1 inches  
**BLADE MATERIAL:** 440A  
**HANDLE MATERIAL:** White bone  
**WEIGHT:** 4.6 ounces  
**MSRP:** \$34.90





## BUFFALO HUNTER

OVERALL LENGTH: 10 inches  
BLADE LENGTH: 5.7 inches  
BLADE THICKNESS: 0.2 inches  
BLADE MATERIAL: 440A  
HANDLE MATERIAL: Micarta  
WEIGHT: 7.7 ounces  
MSRP: \$27.50

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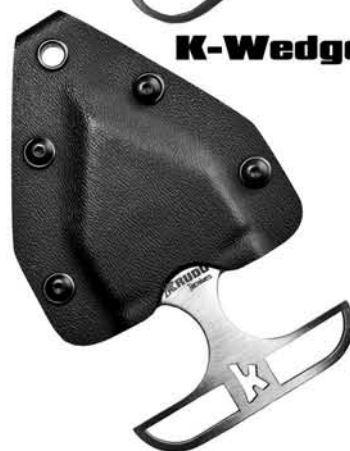
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## SOG SPECIALTY KNIVES & TOOLS

www.SOGKnives.com  
(888) 405-6433

SOG Specialty Knives & Tools had a whole array of new products for SHOT, ranging from expansions of their existing lines to some brand new models for 2015. Standouts included the Mini addition to their BladeLight line, as well as the SEAL Strike and Instinct fixed blades.

### BLADELIGHT FOLDING MINI

**OVERALL LENGTH:** 7 inches

**BLADE LENGTH:** 3 inches

**BLADE THICKNESS:** 0.08 inches

**BLADE MATERIAL:** 8Cr13MoV

**HANDLE MATERIAL:** Glass-reinforced nylon and aluminum

**WEIGHT:** 3.4 ounces

**LOCK:** Liner

**OPENING MECHANISM:** Dual thumb stud

**FLASHLIGHT BRIGHTNESS:** 45 lumens

**MSRP:** \$64-\$77





## SEAL STRIKE

**OVERALL LENGTH:** 9.6 inches

**BLADE LENGTH:** 4.9 inches

**BLADE THICKNESS:** 0.16 inches

**BLADE MATERIAL:** AUS-8

**HANDLE MATERIAL:** Glass-reinforced nylon and stainless steel

**WEIGHT:** 5.6 ounces

**MSRP:** \$83-\$127



## INSTINCT (FULL SIZED)

**OVERALL LENGTH:** 5.9 inches

**BLADE LENGTH:** 2.3 inches

**BLADE THICKNESS:** 0.16 inches

**BLADE MATERIAL:** 5Cr15MoV

**HANDLE MATERIAL:** G10 scales or skeletonized

**WEIGHT:** 2.3 ounces

**MSRP:** \$39-\$45



## SPARTAN BLADES

[www.SpartanBladesUSA.com](http://www.SpartanBladesUSA.com)  
(910) 757-0035

Founded by the vision of two retired U.S. Army Green Berets with the sole purpose of providing knives made in the USA, Spartan knives are as tough as their namesake for modern warriors and outdoorsmen to utilize in some of the harshest environments. With this in mind, Spartan is focused on the painstaking process of growth during 2015 without sacrificing any of the quality and care that goes into each knife produced.



### SPARTAN-GEORGE V-14 DAGGER

**OVERALL LENGTH:** 11.5 inches  
**BLADE LENGTH:** 6.75 inches  
**BLADE THICKNESS:** 0.25 inches  
**BLADE STEEL:** CPM S35VN  
**HANDLE MATERIAL:** 3-D contoured G10  
**WEIGHT:** 9.3 ounces  
**DESIGNER:** Les George  
**MSRP:** \$445

### AKRIBIS

**OVERALL LENGTH:** 8.50 inches  
**BLADE LENGTH:** 3.5 inches  
**BLADE THICKNESS:** 0.1 inches  
**BLADE STEEL:** S35VN  
**HANDLE MATERIAL:** Black G10 or carbon fiber  
**WEIGHT:** 5.3 ounces  
**OPENING MECHANISM:** Thumb stud  
**DESIGNER:** Iovito/Carey  
**MSRP:** \$445





## VELOS

**OVERALL LENGTH:** 4 inches  
**BLADE LENGTH:** 1.5 inches  
**STEEL:** CPM20CV  
Sheath: Kydex (made by Okuden)  
**DESIGNER:** Curtis Iovito  
**MSRP:** \$90-\$94 (PENDING)

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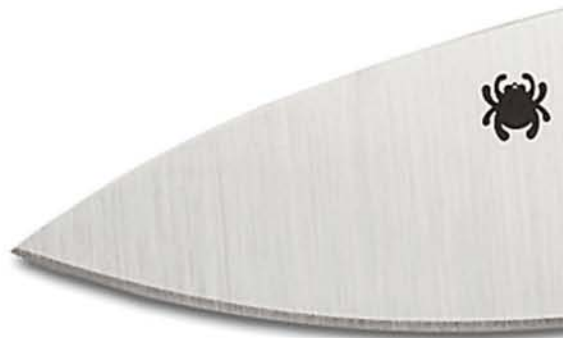
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From Spyderco, we expect innovative mechanisms, collaborations with renowned makers, eye-catching designs, impeccable finish, and flippers so smooth that they're just plain fun. The company is set to deliver in spades this year, including designs tailored to the knife regulations of various international markets. Narrowing down the options to highlight here was quite a challenge!



### ROADIE

**OVERALL LENGTH:** 3 inches (closed)

**BLADE LENGTH:** 2.1 inches

**BLADE THICKNESS:** 0.1 inches

**BLADE MATERIAL:** N6890Co

**HANDLE MATERIAL:** FRN

**WEIGHT:** 1 ounce

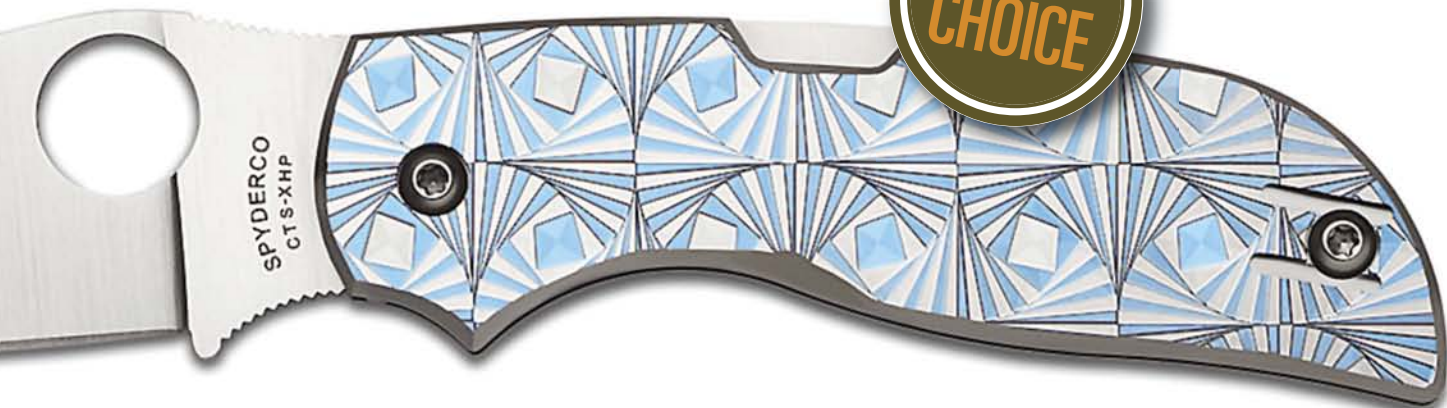
**LOCK:** Slipjoint

**MSRP:** \$79.95





EDITORS'  
CHOICE



## CHAPARRAL BLUE STEPPED TITANIUM

**OVERALL LENGTH:** 3.6 inches (closed)

**BLADE LENGTH:** 2.8 inches

**BLADE THICKNESS:** 0.1 inches

**BLADE MATERIAL:** CTS XHP

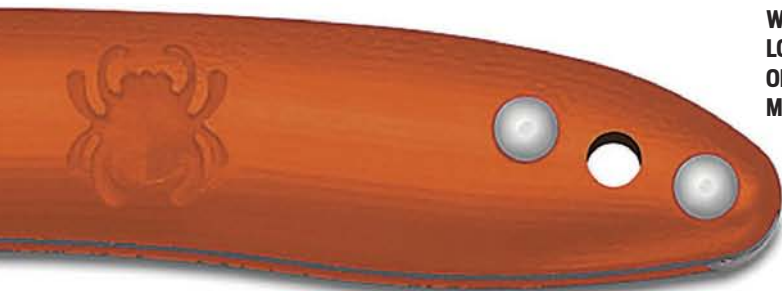
**HANDLE MATERIAL:** Titanium

**WEIGHT:** 2.7 ounces

**LOCK:** Back

**OPENING MECHANISM:** Thumb hole

**MSRP:** \$564.95



## SCHEMPP BOWIE

**OVERALL LENGTH:** 4.7 inches

**BLADE LENGTH:** 3.7 inches

**BLADE THICKNESS:** 0.1 inches

**BLADE MATERIAL:** CPM S30V

**HANDLE MATERIAL:** Carbon fiber, G10, brass

**WEIGHT:** 4.6 ounces

**LOCK:** Liner

**OPENING MECHANISM:** Thumb hole

**DESIGNER:** Ed Schempp

**MSRP:** \$299.95



## TOPS KNIVES

www.TOPSKnives.com  
(208) 542-0113

TOPS Knives boasts an impressive stable of innovative designers, so it's no surprise that they've experienced explosive growth, as evidenced by the dozens upon dozens of designs on display at SHOT. Recognizing that knives are not only meant to be a solid tool that you can depend on in even the most dire circumstances, but are an extension of your personality, TOPS Knives has been focusing on offering fresh new color schemes and handle scale grind patterns. This year TOPS also plans to add some solid entries into their line of folders.



### BAJA 4.5

**OVERALL LENGTH:** 9.5 inches  
**BLADE LENGTH:** 4.5 inches  
**BLADE THICKNESS:** 0.2 inches  
**BLADE MATERIAL:** 1095HC  
**HANDLE MATERIAL:** Green canvas Micarta  
**BLADE COLOR:** Black River Wash  
**SHEATH:** Leather  
**WEIGHT:** 6.5 ounces  
**MSRP:** \$200 (subject to change)



### SXB

**OVERALL LENGTH:** 16.75 inches  
**BLADE LENGTH:** 10.4 inches  
**CUTTING EDGE:** 9.75 inches  
**BLADE THICKNESS:** 0.25 inches  
**BLADE MATERIAL:** 1095HC  
**BLADE COLOR:** Black traction  
**HANDLE MATERIAL:** Black linen Micarta  
**WEIGHT:** 26 ounces  
**DESIGNER:** EJ Snyder  
**MSRP:** \$300 (subject to change)







## MINI SCANDI SURVIVAL

**OVERALL LENGTH:** 6.1 inches  
**BLADE LENGTH:** 3 inches  
**BLADE THICKNESS:** 0.1 inches  
**BLADE MATERIAL:** 1095HC  
**HANDLE MATERIAL:** Black canvas  
 Micarta, red spacers  
**BLADE COLOR:** Coyote Tan traction  
 coating  
**DESIGNER:** Leo Espinoza  
**MSRP:** \$89.95

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Grimsno Knives milling a fixed blade, called The Tor, on a Tormach PCNC 1100.

[www.tormach.com/knives](http://www.tormach.com/knives)



## VICTORINOX

www.SwissArmy.com  
(800) 442-2706

For a company that has so many knives for so many areas of the industry it's hard to imagine where they can go next, but Victorinox has continued to innovate and expand. Since merging with Wenger, Victorinox has pulled from and built on the strongest products from each company. So far, reception has been excellent from users ranging from rescuers, to hunters, to the everyday user.

### EVO GRIP S101

**OVERALL LENGTH:** 3.35 inches  
**BLADE LENGTH:** 2.5 inches  
**BLADE MATERIAL:** Stainless steel  
**HANDLE MATERIAL:** Cellidor with rubber grips  
**WEIGHT:** 3.1 ounces  
**LOCK:** lock blade  
**OPENING MECHANISM:** Nail nick  
**MSRP:** \$56



### VICTORINOX HUNTER

**OVERALL LENGTH:** 9.1 inches  
**BLADE LENGTH:** 4 inches  
**BLADE MATERIAL:** Stainless steel  
**HANDLE MATERIAL:** Nylon  
**WEIGHT:** 5.7 ounces  
**LOCK:** Back  
**OPENING MECHANISM:** Thumb hole  
**MSRP:** \$59



## W.R.CASE

www.WRCase.com  
(800) 523-6350

Case continues to build on its rich history in the cutlery industry, particularly with knives honoring notable members of the U.S. military—particularly with limited edition, highly collectible pieces. And as usual, SHOT wouldn't be complete without a new Case collaboration with legendary knife maker Tony Bose. This year's release is a Cattleman's knife, which will be available in a variety of patterns. Case is also expanding its Patriot Kirinite offerings, the patriotic red, white and blue pattern, which has made it a successful line.

### CASE V-24

**OVERALL LENGTH:** 12.5 inches  
**BLADE LENGTH:** 7.25 inches  
**BLADE MATERIAL:** Carbon steel  
**HANDLE MATERIAL:** Stacked leather  
**WEIGHT:** 7 ounces  
**DESIGNER:** W.R. Case commemorative  
**MSRP:** \$549.99

### BOSE CATTLEMAN

**OVERALL LENGTH:** 4.25 inches closed  
**BLADE LENGTH:** 3.25 clip point  
**BLADE THICKNESS:** .125 inches  
**BLADE MATERIAL:** 154-CM  
**HANDLE MATERIAL:** Mother of pearl, abalone, ebony, jugged bone chestnut and antiques  
**WEIGHT:** 4.1 ounces  
**LOCK:** Slip joint  
**OPENING MECHANISM:** Thumb nick  
**DESIGNER:** Tony Bose  
**MSRP:** \$455.99-\$655.99



## ZERO TOLERANCE

[www.ZT.KAIUSALtd.com](http://www.ZT.KAIUSALtd.com)  
(800) 325-2891

Perhaps the best way to describe Zero Tolerance's release this year is "new direction." They're not abandoning their customer base, but are moving toward sleeker, more streamlined models. If their earlier models were tanks, these are predators—clean looking, with many angles and crisp transitions, but not bulky. It's a more subtle look, but still has kept its original base of built like a tank.

### 0452 CF

**OVERALL LENGTH:** 9.3 inches

**BLADE LENGTH:** 4.1 inches

**BLADE MATERIAL:** S35VN

**HANDLE MATERIAL:** Carbon fiber titanium

**WEIGHT:** 4.6 ounces

**LOCK:** Frame lock

**OPENING MECHANISM:** Thumb flipper

**MSRP:** \$275



### 0808

**OVERALL LENGTH:** 7.6 inches

**BLADE LENGTH:** 3.2 inches

**BLADE MATERIAL:** S35VN

**HANDLE MATERIAL:** Titanium hand-washed finish

**WEIGHT:** 4.3 inches

**LOCK:** Frame lock with hardened steel bar insert

**OPENING MECHANISM:** Thumb flipper

**MSRP:** \$250 





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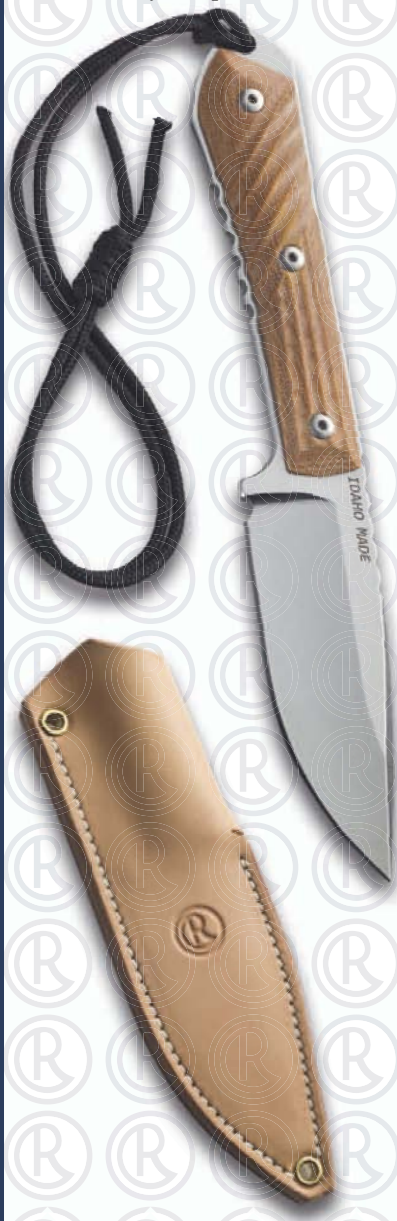
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"On the Edge" is a new regular column. In it, field editor and survival expert Joshua Swanagon introduces us to newer or lesser-known makers.

## Luke Swenson

SLIP-JOINT SPECIALIST AND LEATHER CRAFTSMAN

STORY BY JOSHUA SWANAGON


PHOTO BY JIM COOPER

**IN a messy, crowded garage in the heart of Texas you will find Luke Swenson of Swenson Knives working in his home shop.**

After reading the book "Make the Knife You Carry"—which he purchased from the Atlanta Cutlery Catalog back in 2003—Swenson, a full-time firefighter, began focusing on his other passion: knife making. Since then, Swenson has surrounded himself with some of the finest makers in the industry and has learned from them as much and as often as he can. His mentors and role models include Bill Ruple, Harvey Dean, Johnny Stout, Trace Rinaldi and J.W. Randall.

Starting with camp and hunting knives and eventually tactical knives, Swenson made the move to slip-joint folders about three years ago and has found a new love there. He prefers A2 steel for his camp, hunting and tactical knives for its ease of heat treating in a home shop, but prefers CPM 154 stainless for his smaller high-end EDC and slip-joint knives due to the excellent finish it can take and the ease of heat treating.

While he uses Micarta, G10 or carbon fiber on his larger knives, Swenson likes to use bone or stag on his slip joints, leaning more in favor of stag—partly due to the influence of his friend Bill Ruple. Perhaps the only thing that rivals his knife making is his skill with leather, which he uses to craft his own sheaths using the leather tools he inherited from his father. He finds great solace in this part of the process.

Swenson does customer designs from time to time, but the typical waiting period is four to six months. However, since he doesn't yet have any production models, if you purchase a knife from him you can rest assured that it's a hand-made custom knife. 



Swenson Double-Blade Trapper with stag handles



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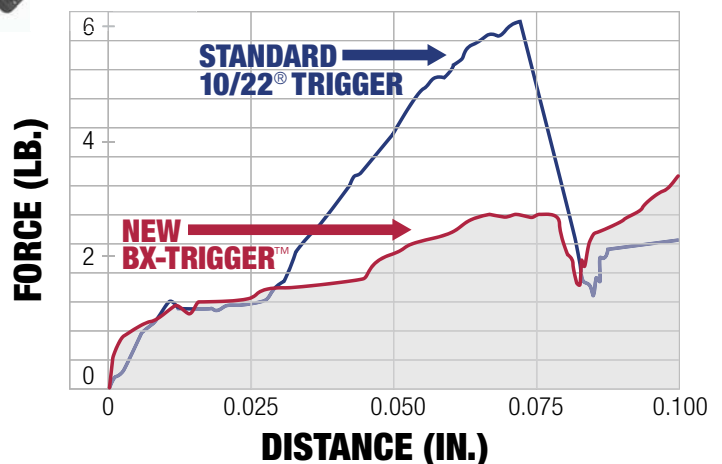
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